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Netanyahu asks Shoval to succeed Lieberman

By AVINOM BAR-YOSEF,
MICHAEL YUDELMAN
and BATSEVA TSUR

Zalman Shoval is Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's choice as a successor for Avigdor Lieberman as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office.

Netanyahu offered Shoval the job at a meeting at the prime minister's residence on Saturday night, a day before Lieberman submitted his resignation, sources in Jerusalem said yesterday.

Shoval has not yet given

Netanyahu his answer. When asked last night for a reaction, Shoval only would say "No comment."

A former ambassador to Washington and ex-Likud MK, Shoval is seen by the prime minister as a figure who could improve Netanyahu's relations with the US, as well as with dissatisfied ministers within the cabinet, Jerusalem sources said.

Netanyahu told Shoval he would expect him to also concentrate on economic issues if he took the director-general's job, the sources

said.

Last May, Shoval was mooted as a replacement for the present ambassador to the US, Binyamin Ben-Elissar.

Meanwhile, State Attorney Edna Arbel said her office is studying the police's recommendation to indict Lieberman for fraud and theft. Her office received the recommendation several days ago and was not involved in the police investigation in any way, she emphasized.

Speaking at a meeting of the Israel Bar Association in Tel Aviv

yesterday, Arbel said she would not be deterred by the recent spate of acquittals for public figures by the courts.

There has been criticism that such indictments were politically motivated, and yesterday's meeting was called to discuss the large number of files opened into activities of public figures. Arbel said she planned to continue indicting public figures whenever there appeared to be evidence of criminal involvement.

Meanwhile, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein has con-

demned the continued leaks during the investigations of public figures.

Rubinstein said he is looking into establishing a committee to investigate the modus operandi of the various police officers who are in contact with the media and to establish hard and fast criteria on such contact.

Meanwhile, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday the chances of indicting Lieberman on fraud and theft charges, as the police recommend, were no higher than 50 percent.

The police recommendation to indict Lieberman followed an investigation into suspicions that he did not return in full a loan he received from the Geshur Aliya association he headed a few years ago, and that he sold his car to the association at an exorbitant price.

The police decided to reopen the case two weeks ago, after an ink expert ruled that the document Lieberman had produced to prove he had repaid the loan was forged.

Kahalani, who spoke to pupils at

the ORT school in Karmiel, did not conceal his fury over the "leak" of the police recommendation to indict Lieberman, which reached both television channels Monday night before the minister was advised of it.

"It's a disgraceful bungle and I will take care of it my way," Kahalani said. "This does not mean I'm not a good minister."

"It means there are malfunctions in the police. Even the inspector-general didn't know about it, and I think he should also find a way to take care of it."

PM halts requests for Clinton meeting

By JAY BUSHINSKY
and HILLEL KUTTLER

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu no longer is angling for an early one-on-one meeting with US President Bill Clinton, having concluded that the president's inability to find a mutually convenient date is a brush-off.

Israel's embassy in Washington has been instructed to stop trying to arrange the meeting, a source in the Prime Minister's Office said.

Official sources indicated that the comments made by Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs Martin Indyk about Clinton and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright having lost patience with Netanyahu were the straw that broke the camel's back.

Netanyahu still believes that a US-Israeli summit could advance the peace process. "But the president evidently doesn't feel that way," a source said.

The sources said Clinton's refusal to see the prime minister will not facilitate the conclusion of any new agreements with the Palestinians or prompt any new initiatives aimed at accelerating the peace process.

The State Department confirmed the remarks by Indyk, who also said that Clinton and Albright are demanding progress in peace talks be made by year's end.

Indyk made the remarks in a luncheon appearance Monday before the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation.

An Israeli Embassy official confirmed the order from the Prime Minister's Office, but stressed that reports that Netanyahu is no longer interested in a meeting are not accurate.

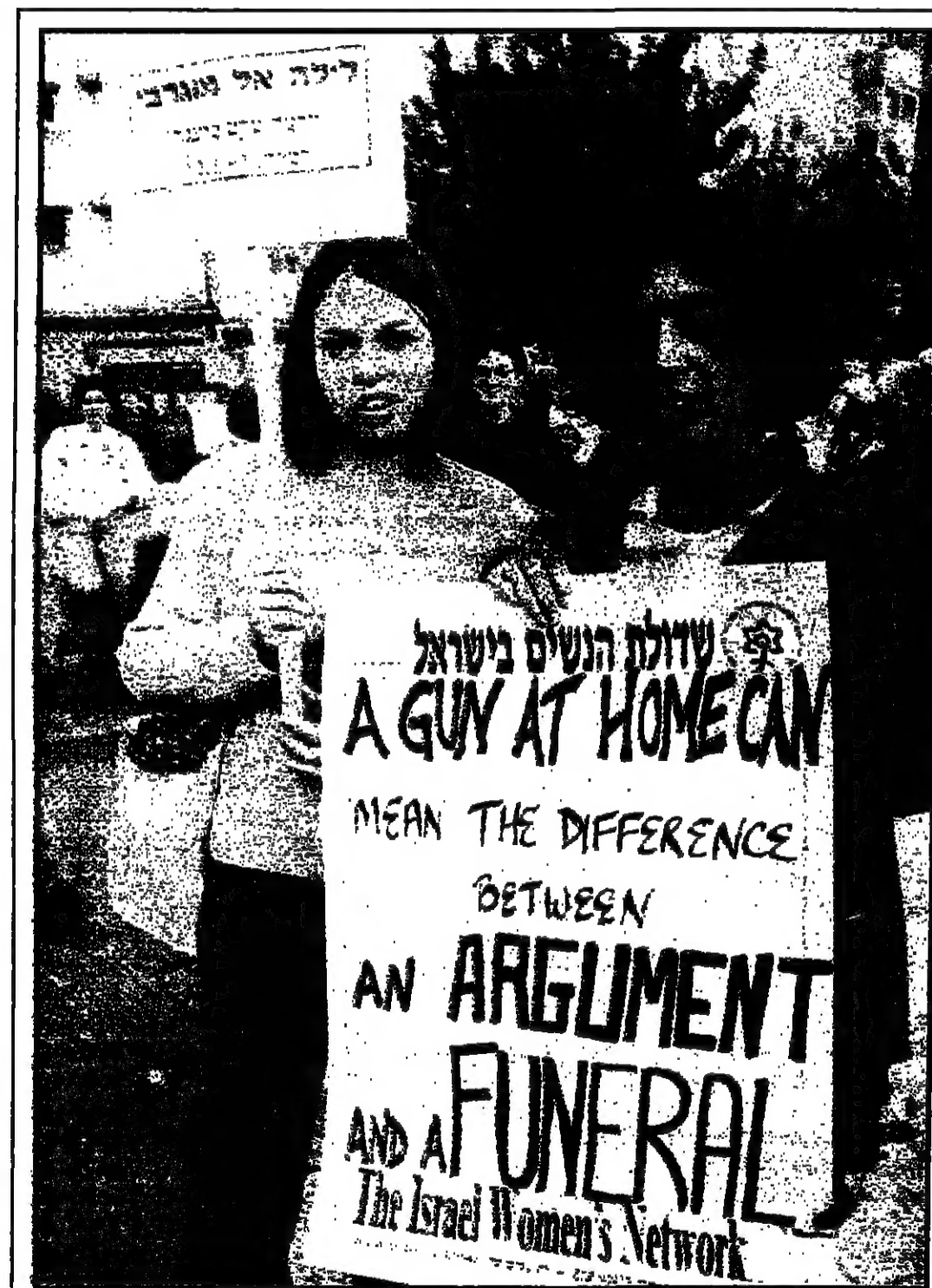
He said approaches had been made to US officials, and "it was decided to stop pursuing a meeting, because the ball is in their [the Americans'] court. It's their decision now...We're not nudging."

Ambassador Elihu Ben-Elissar spoke with the White House 10 days ago, the official said, and he suggested December 8 as a date after informing the administration that the proposed dates of December 4 and 5 were not workable because Netanyahu is scheduled to be in Germany then.

US official said the White House is still attempting to set up a meeting.

Collins adds: MK Ran Ides (Meretz) is demanding the Prime Minister appear before the Torait Foreign Affairs and Nivra Committee to explain his Kiss on the US. "Netanyahu's Fall G's dangerous and shows a Onkel's self-importance verging on Rabbinism," said Cohen.

Metzuz Metzuz Midrash Midrash Talmud Rambam Ritzur S



Stop the violence

Two women carry posters yesterday as they marched with others through Jerusalem to mark the International Day Against Violence Against Women. The sign at the left is one of many the protesters carried bearing the names of women who were murdered this year. Stories, Pages 5 and 11 (Brian Hendler)

Netanyahu briefs Arafat on proposal Cabinet meets on redeployment

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu plans to try to push a package deal with the Palestinians through the cabinet today, in the belief that a majority of the ministers will vote in favor.

The prime minister hopes to win cabinet approval for the handover of six to eight percent of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority, on condition that the PA consents to accelerated final-status talks and suspension of the third redeployment stipulated in the Oslo Accords.

He spelled out the proposal in detail in a late-night telephone conversation with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. This was confirmed by Palestinian as well as Israeli officials, neither of whom specified Arafat's reaction.

Netanyahu told the Palestinian leader that the details of the package are not yet complete, and suggested that there be a coordinated announcement and reaction after the decision making process is completed in Israel.

A key element in Netanyahu's package is the proposed time frame: implementation of the pull-back in five months, but only if the PA effectively cracks down on the terrorist infrastructure in the territories. Five months would give Israel time to assess the degree to which the PA complies with this condition.

If the cabinet approves the package, it would allow Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh and policy adviser Uzi Arad to present the plan to President Hosni Mubarak after submitting it first to his key adviser, Osama el-Baz. Naveh and Arad postponed their departure for Cairo until today, on the chance they could then convey a clearly defined cabinet position rather than a speculative offer.

However, two of Netanyahu's

coalition partners oppose the idea of redeploying from any more territory. The National Religious Party's ministers are likely to vote against the scope and size of this further redeployment because they

NRP ministers to vote against redeployment, Page 2

believe it would deprive Israel of the strategic heights overlooking the Jordan Valley and undermine the security of Israeli settlements.

Strong disapproval also is likely to be expressed by Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan (Tsomet).

Political observers contend that the cabinet is the "lowest political hurdle" confronting Netanyahu. They cited strong opposition to the package within his own Likud faction and even more militant disapproval in the NRP and Tsomet factions.

Anticipating this debate, Foreign Minister David Levy said Israel is committed to the peace process and that it will not advance if Israel simply marks time. He referred directly to the deal's Knesset foes, saying "if it appears that there is no support within the coalition, this will mean that their support for the government's guidelines and the Hebron Agreement was not sincere or genuine."

This would be a very grave development, he said.

A senior government source said the anger and threats expressed by various cabinet members and coalition leaders was unwarranted. "Nothing has been adopted at this stage," he said.

Netanyahu made a special effort to bring National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon into the picture by asking his legal adviser

Yitzhak Molcho to brief Sharon in advance of the special cabinet session. Molcho also paid what was described by Netanyahu as a courtesy call on the PA chairman, in which he apparently let Arafat know that a plan was in the works. The details were discussed only in the phone call.

Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo called the proposed Israeli withdrawal a mockery, while Arafat denied receiving any official proposal from the government regarding a 6-8% withdrawal.

Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath charged the proposal was an Israeli attempt to divide Palestinian land into cantons and keep them under Israeli control.

Arafat, who hosted French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine at his Ramallah office yesterday, told reporters "I am not asking for the moon, only what we signed and what was agreed upon at the White House."

Liat Collins adds: Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that Arafat is working on an alternative option should the peace process fail and is preparing foreign governments for a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state around May 1999.

He said the Palestinians are currently focusing on two main issues: the demand for an immediate further redeployment by Israel and stopping construction in settlements. This is considered a test of Israel's seriousness about the peace process.

He said the Palestinians feel they have a sympathetic ear in the US, but are preserving the semi-freeze on the work of the joint committees on the ports and safe passage because this could create a feeling of progress that would result in decreased US pressure on Israel.

Doctors suspend sanctions pending mediation effort

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Israel Medical Association yesterday suspended sanctions that have wreaked havoc in hospitals since before Rosh Hashana, and which have forced the postponement of nearly 20,000 non-emergency operations nationwide.

The IMA said they would halt the intermittent strikes to give a mediator a chance to resolve the issue of who will pay for 360 additional doctors' positions in the hospitals.

The Treasury agreed in writing to add the slots in March, but then refused to pay for them.

The IMA suspended the labor actions after receiving a commitment to mediation signed by the employers — the government, Kupat Holim Clalit and administrators of the Hadassah Medical

Organization and other voluntary organizations that own hospitals.

Dr. Yoram Blachar, chairman of the IMA, said that until the jobs are actually added, "there is no certainty that the labor dispute has ended."

He said the IMA has "agreed to participate in the mediation efforts out of concern for the condition of patients and real worry about the state of the public hospital system."

But Blachar added that "if we see that the Treasury is again violating the agreement, we will renew our struggle without hesitation."

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, whom the doctors said they trusted, was involved in the negotiations.

The mediation is expected to take two weeks, once a mediator

is appointed by Health Minister Yehoshua Matza.

It will deal only with implementation of the March agreement, without reopening the question of whether the 360 job slots should be added.

The suspension of sanctions comes not a minute too soon, as internal medicine departments are packed and likely to become even more crowded as a result of winter illnesses.

Clalit director-general Dr. Yitzhak Peterburg called for seeking a comprehensive solution to the severe financial difficulties of the health system, rather than "putting out sporadic fires."

He called on the finance and health ministers to act immediately, noting that the NIS 1.3 billion deficit of the health system was growing by the day.

Livnat quells anti-Netanyahu mutiny by staying on

By SARAH HONG

Communications Minister Limor Livnat announced yesterday that she would not resign from the government, giving Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu breathing space to try and patch up relations in his party.

"What happened lately in the Likud is like a bad dream and I hope that it's behind us. Great errors were made in the handling of Likud affairs and the convention, but these are not of the sort which cannot be put right," Livnat said, after a mid-day meeting with Netanyahu.

Livnat had been named as a ringleader of a scheme to dump Netanyahu as Likud leader, and her decision not to bolt his cabinet suggests that there will not be any mutiny in the very near future.

Yet the consensus in Likud is that the rebellion against Netanyahu has been put on hold,

but not eradicated.

Livnat conferred with Netanyahu for 90 minutes, in a follow-up meeting to a lengthy tete-a-tete last week in which she told him she may quit her post.

When she left the prime minister's bureau yesterday Livnat was all smiles and seemed in good spirits. She said she "has faith in the prime minister's sincerity in wishing to embark on a new chapter of cooperation with Likud ministers and MKs. I do believe that he intends to turn over a new leaf."

She conditioned her support, however, on his "adhering to the government guidelines."

"I support much of what he does. On the whole his policies are right and good and should be continued. I certainly do not want to see this government fall and I do not want to see [Labor Party leader] Ehud Barak become prime minister and

follow Meretz's lead. That is beyond question," Livnat said.

She added: "I will give my full backing to Netanyahu's policy so long as he continues, as he has so far, to carry out policies based on the interests of this state."

Livnat said she would not support a further IDF redeployment in the West Bank "unless it comes after we determine our demands for the final boundaries of this country and for the final-status talks, and... the Palestinians begin to live up in earnest to their own side of the bargain."

Livnat also objected to halting settlement building or to moves that could jeopardize "our exclusive sovereignty in Jerusalem."

Livnat suggested that Avigdor Lieberman's resignation this week as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office was a factor in her decision.



NEWS

in brief

Soldier lightly wounded in Lebanon

An IDF soldier was lightly wounded last night during heavy fighting in south Lebanon. Reports from the region said Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars at an IDF position in the security zone's eastern sector and that a soldier manning the post was wounded. The long-range attack sparked heavy exchanges in the area which were still continuing late last night.

The Grapes of Wrath monitoring group is to convene at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura today (to hear four complaints from Israel about the firing on Sunday at Beit Leif village in the security zone in which eight local residents were killed and about Katyusha rockets being fired into Western Galilee. David Rudge

50th anniversary corruption probed

Knesset State Control Committee chairman Yossi Katz has launched an investigation into complaints of impropriety regarding the handling of fiftieth anniversary celebrations, Channel 2 reported last night.

The probe follows complaints about a \$300,000 bill submitted by Merv Adelson, who was appointed as organizer of anniversary celebrations in the US by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. The bill was for flights, meals, hotel and secretarial expenses. Adelson, a contributor and friend of Netanyahu's, was also promised a budget of \$3 million without the knowledge of Israeli organizers, the television reported. *Jim*

Jordanian infiltrator captured and returned

Soldiers captured a Jordanian citizen who infiltrated into the northern Jordan Valley late Monday and then returned him to Jordan, the IDF said.

The infiltrator, identified as Saddam Ibrahim Talawi, was captured near the Nave Or settlement. Security sources said the man was not hostile and was turned over to police for questioning.

He was sent back to Jordan yesterday. The IDF questioned that Jordanian forces were involved in the search for the infiltrator.

Last month soldiers fatally shot a Palestinian armed with a knife who penetrated the same frontier. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Liberal US Jews form 'Beit Shalom'

With the support of Leah Rabin, an alliance of a dozen liberal American Jews groups in New York yesterday launched "Beit Shalom," a coalition that will campaign for peace and pluralism in Israel. "The Oslo process is in advanced stages of collapse, and we hold Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in part responsible for that collapse, with the complicity of Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority," said Mark Rosenblum, one of the founders of Americans for Peace Now and a spokesman for Beit Shalom. *Marilyn Henry*

Acre woman charged with spying

Nadia Fudeh, 45, of Acre, was charged in Haifa District Court yesterday with giving information to the enemy.

According to the indictment, Fudeh collaborated with PLO member, Halami Zuabi, who in the 1980s lived in Egypt and Iraq, and gathered information about Israel from several operatives, including Fudeh's sister, Faiza. Faiza Fudeh has been convicted of related charges. *Jim*

Arafat orders release of gov't critic

Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat ordered the release yesterday of a professor jailed since July after asking students to sign an exam about government corruption.

Subuh's wife, Fatmeh, said she expected her husband, Fathi Subuh, 44, would be released later in the week.

Subuh was taken to Gaza City's Shifa Hospital two weeks ago following a two-day hunger strike.

An English professor at Al-Azhar University, Subuh angered Palestinian authorities by asking his students in an exam about corruption in the PA, his lawyer, Raji Sourani said. *AP*

Netanyahu meets with Korean, US officials

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told South Korean Deputy Prime Minister Kwan Oh-Kei yesterday that relations between their countries are excellent, noting that trade between them has grown by 30 percent this year, the Prime Minister's Bureau said. Oh-Kei said at the meeting that Netanyahu's visit to Korea this summer had strengthened their ties.

Netanyahu also met yesterday with House International Relations Committee chairman Benjamin Gilman. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Activists: Reshet Gimel interfering with Arutz 7

Right-wing activists last night charged that Reshet Gimel had begun to "deliberately" interfere with Arutz 7's pirate broadcasts in the center of the country on 105 FM. The activists threatened to retaliate by interfering with broadcasts of Reshet Gimel, along with other Israel Radio broadcasts. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Israel targets Dutch defense market

Dutch Deputy Defense Minister Jan Meijling will attend a demonstration of an anti-armor missile by Rafael today as part of an Israeli campaign to enter the small but important defense market in Holland. The Rafael missile, called Gil, is competing against Lockheed Martin's Javelin missile for a Dutch military contract in a competition that is expected to be decided next year. Meijling said last night that he foresees several areas of cooperation between Israeli and Dutch defense industries. Meijling termed his three-day visit here as "very positive." *Steve Rodan*



Jan Meijling

Ya'alón: Hamas may still strike

Report: Jihad perpetrated Old City attack

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, MOHAMMED NAJIB, and LIAT COLLINS

The Damascus-based Al-Quds radio station, which is affiliated with Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command, claimed yesterday that Islamic Jihad was responsible for last week's terrorist attack in Jerusalem's Old City. Shortly after midnight last Wednesday, terrorists opened fire at two yeshiva students returning to their dormitory at the Ateret Cohanim yeshiva in the Moslem Quarter. Gavriel Hirschberg, 26, was killed and Benny Dil was wounded.

Security forces determined a Kalashnikov rifle was used in the attack, but details of the investigation are being kept under wraps and no arrests have been made.

Since the attack, security forces have beefed up their presence in the Old City and reopened a police station next to the yeshiva.

Meanwhile, OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alón warned the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that Hamas may try to kidnap Israelis or carry out other terror attacks.

Hamas does not have an agreement with the Palestinian Authority against carrying out terror attacks, he said.

Hamas might try to kidnap Israelis to use as bargaining chips in obtaining the release of Hamas prisoners, he added.

According to an official briefing, Ya'alón also said Hamas has not rejected other terror options, including shootings and suicide bombings.

In the past, terror attacks were carried out to torpedo the peace process, Ya'alón said, but while

the process is frozen Hamas could carry out attacks to demand a prisoner release. If the peace process resumes, so could the other forms of attacks, Ya'alón said.

The Islamic Jihad is also "very interested" in carrying out attacks and is building up an infrastructure, Ya'alón said.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat is using the fight against terror as a negotiating card in the diplomatic process, Ya'alón said. He added that although the PA is not taking intensive action against the terror infrastructure, it does act to thwart

specific attacks.

He said both Israel and the PA are trying to find the head of the Tsurif village terror cell responsible for the attacks at Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market and Rehov Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall and at Tel Aviv's Aproz cafe.

While the PA has received no promise from Hamas that it will not carry out terror attacks, the PA demands that any Hamas' attack does not embarrass the PA either in its timing or by being able to be traced back to PA controlled areas.

Ya'alón said that the Hamas leadership makes its own decisions on when and what type of attack to carry out.

NRP to vote against pullback

By LIAT COLLINS

The two National Religious Party ministers - Ze'evulun Hammer (Education) and Yitzhak Levy (Transport) - said they would vote against the redeployment at today's cabinet meeting.

The party is expected to announce its stand on further redeployment today, after the cabinet meeting on the subject.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has invited NRP MKs to meet him this evening to discuss the matter.

At a faction meeting yesterday, most of the party's MKs spoke against any further redeployment and said the government should instead begin negotiating a final-status arrangement with the Palestinians.

Levy evaded questions on whether they would act to topple the government should the redeployment go ahead. But NRP whip Hanan Porat said that if the plan being mooted goes ahead, the NRP would not be able to remain in the coalition.

Law Committee Chairman Shaul Yahalom said: "The plan which has been leaked which talks of a 6 percent to 8 percent withdrawal would strike a fatal blow at Jewish settlement and the security of the state."

Shmuryahu Ben-Zur was more moderate, saying the party should consider "a redeployment." "It depends of course on how much, where and most importantly that the Palestinians should abide by the Hebron Agreement and the principle of reciprocity should be preserved."

Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan said any further redeployment must be conditioned on the Palestinians fulfilling all their commitments.

Among the commitments he cited as not being fulfilled or being violated were: the promise to fight terror, to void the Palestinian Covenant, to hold only a certain number of weapons, and to stop polluting water sources.

"Why do we have to move forward when the other side marches in place and even backwards?" he asked.

Third Way whip Yehuda Harel, who met with the prime minister yesterday to discuss the redeployment, said his party supports a large withdrawal, in keeping with the Third Way's idea of "peacefully separating from the Palestinians." The Third Way is continuing to push for a national unity government.

Margot Dudkevitch adds: Settlement leaders are making frenzied attempts to convince MKs and ministers to object to further redeployment.

In an interview on Arutz 7, Pinhas Wallerstein, chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said the planned withdrawal is designed to connect Arab towns and villages, and will strangle Jewish communities.

The ABCs of redeployment

On March 6, the cabinet approved stage one of a three-stage redeployment phase as stipulated under the Oslo Declaration of Principles (DOP), Oslo 2, and the Hebron Accord.

This stage involved the transfer of 9.1% of the West Bank to the Palestinians: 7% of Area B would have become Area A - thereby almost tripling the amount of territory under sole Palestinian control (Area A), and 2.1% of Area C would have become Area B.

The Palestinians rejected the proposal and have reportedly demanded 30% of the West Bank be handed over to them in each of the three stages. It should be noted that while the Oslo Accords relate to the three-phase redeployment there is no mention of specific locations, or the amount of area to be handed over to the Palestinian Authority, in each stage or in toto.

Israel is committed to yielding the entire West Bank with the exception of settlements, any areas needed for external defense, and "specified military locations." But a January letter of assurances from former secretary of state Warren Christopher to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is being interpreted by the government as giving Israel the right to decide unilaterally on the scope of the "specified military locations."

According to the agreement, each stage was to have been carried out

six months after the previous one. Therefore, had the first phase gone through, the second phase would have been implemented in September.

While the spirit of the agreement is open to subjective interpretation, the concept of the Oslo process, whereby Israel hands over territory to the PA, rests on Palestinians' promise to combat terror.

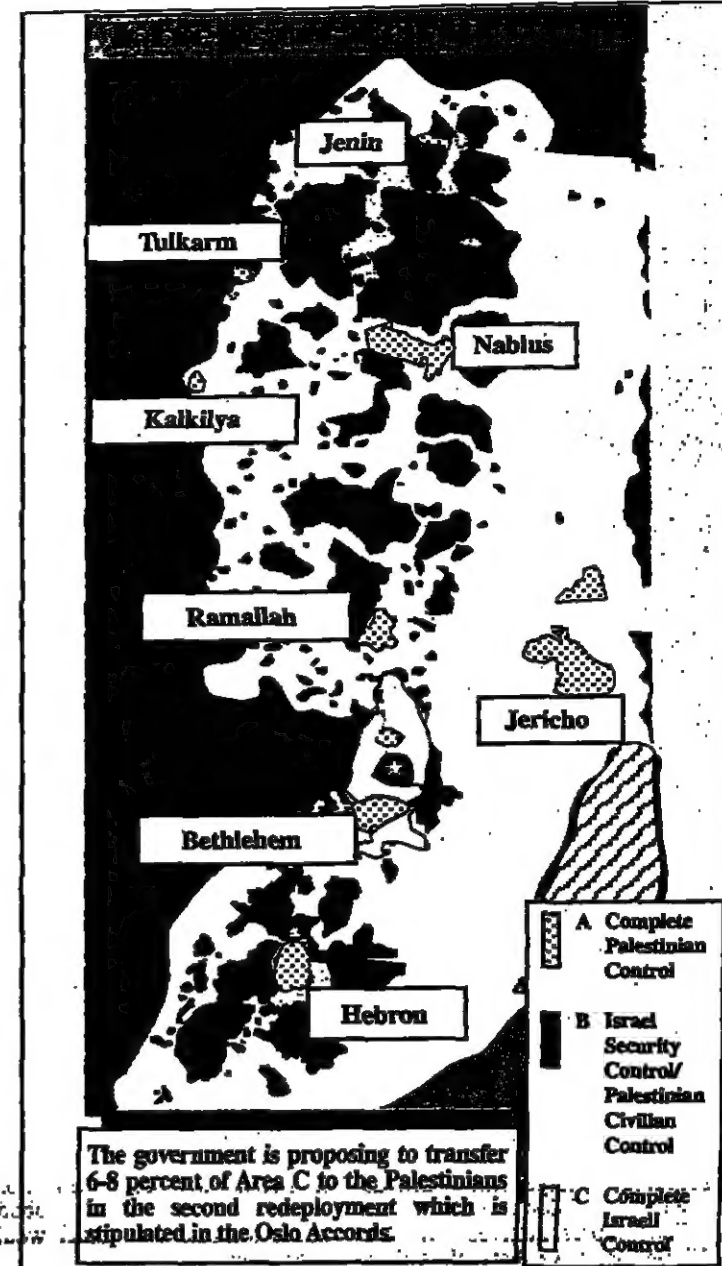
Area A, the area under exclusive Palestinian control now totals 3% of the West Bank. This included the West Bank's major cities and environs, though 20% of Hebron still remains under Israel's control. The IDF can enter this area only as part of the mandated joint patrols.

Area B is under shared Israeli and Palestinian control and includes over 400 villages in the West Bank. In these areas, the Palestinians control civilian affairs and public order but Israel retains overriding security authority, and the IDF can enter these areas at will. Area B now constitutes approximately 27% of the West Bank. At the time of the planned first-stage redeployment government officials visualized large sections of this area turning into Area A by the end of the three-stage pullback.

Area C is under complete Israeli control and comprises 70% of the West Bank, including all the settlements, military installations and any areas not deemed A or B.

BACKGROUND

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH



The government is proposing to transfer 6-8 percent of Area C to the Palestinians in the second redeployment which is stipulated in the Oslo Accords.

Sneh: High-tech weapons could end up with terrorists

By ANEH O'SULLIVAN

The state comptroller has agreed to investigate whether Israel is selling its high-tech weapons systems to countries where they might fall into enemy hands.

MK Efraim Sneh, head of the Knesset subcommittee on the IDF and defense establishment, said yesterday he feared the search for profits by military industries were leading them to sell unique weapons, many developed with funding from the ministry of defense, to questionable customers.

"I am afraid that business considerations are overriding defense considerations when it comes to the decision on exporting high-tech military systems," Sneh said. "These weapons may be transferred illegally to hostile states or terrorist organizations and that could cause significant harm to Israel."

Sneh said he asked the comptroller to investigate the process of granting export licenses for weapons produced in Israel. He said the comptroller agreed and would open an investigation.

Sneh noted that Rafael in particular may have crossed a fine line in deciding to sell Poland 5,000 anti-tank missiles as part of a deal

concluded last month.

The deal also involves turning Poland's transport Huzar helicopters into gunships, each equipped with four NT-D missiles developed by Rafael. The missile, also called the Long Spike, was designed to be launched from helicopters.

According to foreign reports, the missiles are fitted with a tandem warhead allowing them to penetrate targets fitted with explosive reactive armor.

Sneh said that sophisticated weapons are developed for use by the IDF, "not for any other reason and certainly not for profit."

Sneh said that the defense industries maintain that if they didn't sell their products abroad they would be forced to shut down and lay off workers. "I said that if the weapons were so unique and we want to preserve them, then the industries should be subsidized by the number one beneficiary of the weapons, the defense ministry," Sneh said. "Just look at what a primitive missile like the Sagger is doing to our forces in Lebanon. Imagine what damage could be inflicted upon our forces if the missile fell into the hands of Hizbullah," he said.

Iraqi threat not over

By LIAT COLLINS

The Iraqi threat is not yet over in the opinion of OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alón, who warned Knesset members yesterday that Baghdad may again try to stop UN observers from inspecting weapons in his country.

Ya'alón also told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the observers believe Iraq is hiding chemical and biological weapons.

Although Iraq does not have a nuclear capability, it could regain one within a year, once it obtains the necessary materials, since Iraq still has the requisite scientific infrastructure and knowhow.

Ya'alón added: Iraq is believed to be hiding two missile launchers and 16 to 18 missiles. Ya'alón said.

Hillel Kurler adds from Washington: Syria, Iraq, Iran and Libya are "aggressively seeking" nuclear

biological and chemical weapons and were "the most pressing threats" to Middle East stability, a Pentagon study released yesterday said.

"Although Syria faces severe financial constraints over the next decade, the strategic importance of ballistic missile and chemical programs will ensure a high priority during this time period," the report said.

Iran has made "significant progress" to "becoming self-sufficient in ballistic missile production," it added.

Defense Secretary William Cohen said the US would continue urging Russia to cease cooperating with Iran's missile development.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. WAF Brannan will speak on "My Job."

The Family of Baron Edmond De Rothschild

wishes to express its deep appreciation and gratitude to all those who extended condolences and offered sympathy, either in person or in writing, on the passing of the

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strike

specific attacks. He said both Israel and the PLO are trying to find the head of the Tsurif village terror cell responsible for the attacks at Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market and Tel Aviv's Aproz cafe. While the PA has received a promise from Hamas that it will not carry out terror attacks, it does not embarrass the PA in its timing or by being able to trace back to PA-controlled leadership. Ya'alon said that the Hamas leadership makes its own decisions on when and what type of attack to carry out.



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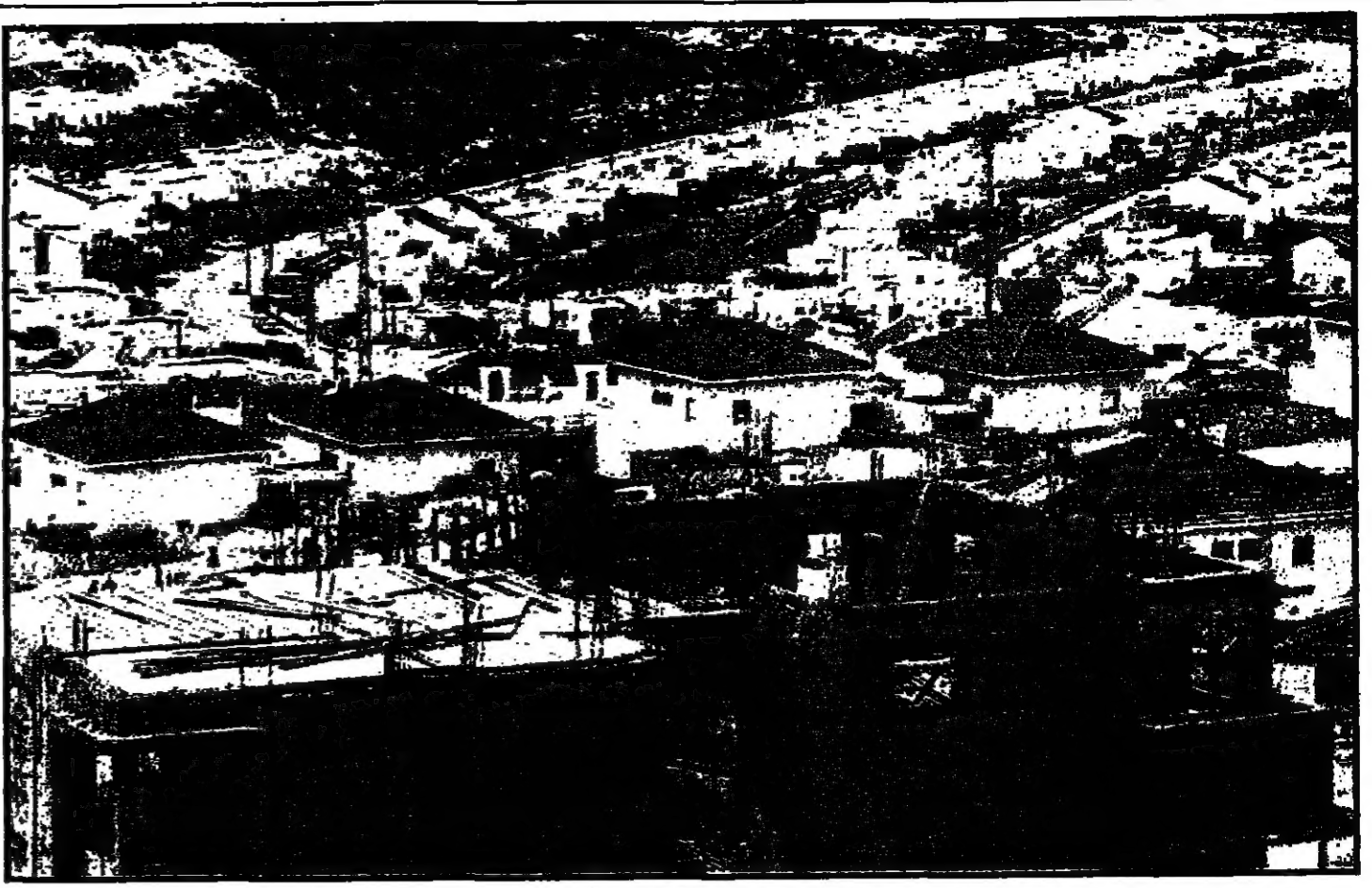
Residents of new settlement Kfar Oranim: 'We're not settlers'

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The first five families moved into Kfar Oranim, a new settlement of some 100 homes just over the Green Line near Modi'in, Army Radio reported yesterday. Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom said it was set up without his knowledge or coordination with the ministry. He added that his office would investigate whether they had ministry approval for moving into their homes. "We did not approve it. I presume that if it was done, it happened under the Rabin administration," Shalom said during a tour at the Erez checkpoint. Shalom said the current government's sentiments toward settlement were irrelevant. "If it was in fact approved legally then it will remain," he said. "We have no intention of causing an escalation. It doesn't matter if we are satisfied with it or not. It is a matter of legality." But Shalom refused to say

whether he would order the removal of the settlers if it was found to be illegal. Defense sources said the settlement had been approved by the Rabin government as part of a plan to buffer the Green Line in the Modi'in district. Another settlement called Ofarim was also built nearby during the Labor government, they said. Meanwhile, Kfar Oranim residents expressed outrage at the reports on Army Radio of a new settlement, stressing that they are not settlers. "We're seeking a quality of life and fresh air; we did not come here for ideological reasons," stressed Victor Ben Shoshan, the village's appointed spokesman. He said some families are renting villas in the village until their own houses are completed by the contractor. The land was sold off to various contractors, and most of the 100 villas in the village should be completed within the next few months, he said. He added that a second stage for discharged soldiers and their fami-

lies is being planned and a foundation has been established to oversee the operation. The majority of residents due to move to the village in the coming months are from Tel Aviv, Bat Yam and Jerusalem, he said. They are mostly academics and families with young children, whose political views range from the center to Left, Ben Shoshan said. In order to reach their homes, residents use the road leading through Lapid and children are transported to schools in Modi'in until renovations at the school in Lapid are completed, Ben Shoshan said. "After hearing today's reports I have begun to understand how animosity toward the media is generated; such irresponsible reports only serve to hamper our existence." However, Peace Now director general Moshe Raz and Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza spokeswoman Yehudit Tayer both insisted that Kfar Oranim is a settlement, despite the denial of residents.



Construction workers look over Kfar Oranim, a settlement in the Modi'in area, where five families moved into homes yesterday. (AP)

RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BEGUN

Vremya reports that Yisrael Ba'aliya claims that the goal in next year's municipal election campaign is to "have a mayor in three or four cities and deputy mayors in 20-25 cities from their party." Preparations for the municipal elections are made by a central party committee, headed by Natan Sharansky. The central committee is studying the nature of the political forces in each city. It is studying the criteria for the selection of candidates and holding seminars to learn how to run in the elections. In the municipal elections, "Russian candidates will receive between a quarter to a third of the places [on the local councils]; their leaders can expect to become deputy mayor at the very least," says Alex Prilutsky in Vesti, speaking of large cities such as Ashdod, Ashqon and Beersheba. The representatives of the Yisrael Ba'aliya lists elected in these cities "will manage the important municipal departments with large budgets." Kiryat Gat, he says, is one of the cities that may have a "Russian mayor." Almost 100 percent of the immigrant voters - 1/3 of the city's population - will support a Russian candidate. In Netanya, half the population are "Russian citizens." The polls show that 80-95% of them will support a Yisrael Ba'aliya list.

beginning of Bolshevik power in the largest country in the world. "There are almost no traces of world communism or the notion of building 'victorious socialism' in a separate country," says Sofia Ron in Vesti. "Although the Soviet colossus with feet of clay ultimately fell on its face, at least one part of the Soviet legacy remains: Their plans of regulating the situation in the Middle East. The final stages of the Oslo Agreements are very similar to these plans made over 15 years ago." In 1982, the Soviets suggested the following: To give the Arabs back their native land. To satisfy the legal and national rights of the Arab nation of Palestine by creating their state on land freed from Israeli occupation. To deem the annexation of the eastern part of Jerusalem illegal. At the time, says Ron, these recommendations seemed so absurd that nobody could imagine that Israel would ever accept them. Nobody could have imagined 15 years ago "that the Jewish State would voluntarily go the way of national suicide," she concludes.

The Gregory Lerner trial

"There is no court decision yet, but Gregory Lerner (Zvi Ben-Ari) is already regarded as a convict," MK Sofia Landver (Labor) is quoted in Russian Israeliyev, after she and MK Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) attended a hearing in the case. "Lerner is not permitted to see anyone but his wife who, before every visit, must submit to a humiliating body search," she said. He is subjected to deplorable prison conditions "as though he were a dangerous criminal."

The Soviet ME legacy

In light of the recent stormy political events, the Israeli press hardly mentioned an important historical date: the 80th anniversary of the "Red October," the

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WJC President Edgar Bronfman on Holocaust restitution: Switzerland is dragging its feet

By BATSHEVA TSUR

By channeling money to Germany in return for stolen Jewish gold, Switzerland in fact prolonged World War II, World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman charged yesterday.

Furthermore, Switzerland is dragging its feet today with regard to Jewish assets belonging to Jewish victims and should follow the example of other European countries such as Norway, which have reassessed their attitude and are taking action, Bronfman said.

"It is like pulling teeth to get the Swiss to do something" at the Volcker Committee, Bronfman told a session of the Knesset Committee on Restitution of Jewish Property.

"Its work is slow and ponderous. Switzerland should examine its past with speed like other European countries... I hope we can achieve an honorable end" to the Holocaust restitution process, he said.

Bronfman, repeating past allegations, also accused the Swiss of turning a blind eye during the war to transports of Jews to death camps on trains that went through Zurich.

Thomas Borer, a Swiss Foreign Ministry envoy who heads a Swiss task force on World War II, denied the accusation.

"There is no oral or written testimony of Jews passing through Zurich, which had a large Jewish population that could have seen

this. I request you don't repeat this," he said. "It's an offense to us."

Borer described German Holocaust assets as small, and denied that their existence could have prolonged the war. But he admitted that there was and still is "some antisemitism in Switzerland."

"The government and every honorable Swiss citizen takes this very seriously. It is totally against our fundamental principles and I promise we will fight it," he said.

"For our own survival - imports of food, raw materials and energy - we had to deal with [Germany] to some extent," he said.

Borer noted that Switzerland was reassessing its role to see "how much resistance to the Nazis was possible and to draw the consequences."

He said that the Bergier Commission looking into Switzerland's war role would publish a first report probably next week.

This was only one step - along with the Volcker Committee, the publication of unclaimed accounts by the Swiss Bankers' Association and the establishment of the Swiss Fund for Needy Survivors - in trying to resolve the issues, he said.

"Despite your sincere remarks, the differences between us remain," committee chairman MK Avraham Herschson said. He added that the Jewish world was united in wanting to see justice done.



Seated at a special session yesterday of the Knesset Committee on Restitution of Jewish Property (right to left) are Swiss envoy and head of the Switzerland-World War II Task Force, Thomas Borer, New York City Comptroller Alan Hevesi, the committee chairman, MK Avraham Herschson, and World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman. (Isaac Harari)

Holocaust victims in US get help to recoup insurance payments

LOS ANGELES (AP) - California's insurance commissioner will join several other states in helping Holocaust survivors and heirs to those killed in Nazi war camps recoup money from old insurance policies.

"The people who lived through the unspeakable horror of the Holocaust can never be compensated for what they suffered."

"However, we can help Holocaust survivors recover what rightfully theirs by forcing insurance companies to settle claims for life and property insurance," Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush said Monday.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners task force is holding hearings across the United States to investigate allegations that Holocaust victims and their heirs have been robbed of benefits on policies paid for more than 50 years ago.

US regulators are expected to decide by year's end how the association might pressure US subsidiaries of the European companies to pay on the old policies.

States such as Washington and New York are moving on their own.

A lawsuit against 16 European companies seeking \$1 billion from each has been filed.

Source: Allies may allocate \$60m. to survivors

By MARKLYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The Allies have not yet made a final decision on who will receive or allocate the \$60 million in "residual gold" recovered from Nazi loot after World War II, although they favor giving it to survivors, according to a State Department source.

A formal recommendation is due next week, when the former Allies, along with delegates from Europe and Israel, convene in London for the so-called gold conference, which is expected to shut down the Tripartite Gold Commission and distribute its remaining assets. The commission was established by the Paris reparations treaty after the war to repatriate some 330 metric tons of gold that had been recovered from the caches looted from the central banks of Europe. The remaining gold is valued at between \$60m.

and \$70m., and Jewish organizations have been lobbying for it.

Earlier this week in Jerusalem, Lord Janner of Britain spoke of a fund that was to be established in conjunction with the World Jewish Congress and the World Jewish Restitution Organization, which will make disbursements to eligible individuals, 90 percent of them Jews.

However, under Article 8 of the Paris treaty, the funds to benefit Jewish refugees were divided between the Jewish Agency and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The US, Britain and France - the administrators of the Tripartite Gold Commission - support the idea of a "Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund," but the "format and structure of the fund is undecided," the State Department source said.

"We expect it will go to needy survivors via recognized NGOs," he said, referring to

non-governmental organizations. He did not elaborate.

The London conference brings together the nations who were party to the post-war Paris reparations treaty or claimants for Nazi loot. Under the terms of the Paris treaty, which established the Tripartite Commission as well as the rules for reparations, the Jewish Agency and the Joint were designated to receive 90% of \$25m. that the Allies had set aside to resettle "non-repatriable" Nazi victims.

The claimant nations got gold from the Tripartite Commission according to a proportional system under which each country was to receive a "quasi-final" payment of some 65% of its "recognized" claim for Nazi-plundered gold. Technically, these nations are entitled to the residual gold and would have to forfeit their claims in order for the survivors to benefit.

Court halts ETV head decision

By HELEN KATZ

Supreme Court Judge Eliezer Goldberg yesterday issued a temporary ruling forbidding the government and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer from appointing a new Educational TV head without a tender.

The decision came following a petition to the court on Monday by MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui-Meretz) seeking to prevent such an appointment by the government.

Expressing his satisfaction with the decision, Poraz reiterated his earlier contention that since ETV broadcasts current affairs programs, it was improper to install a political appointee who would be beholden to the minister who appointed him.

The government's decision to appoint a search committee was no better than a smoke screen which would permit Hammer, to install his chosen candidate, Poraz maintained, saying the committee's members were only empowered to offer the minister a list.

Hammer's candidate to replace current ETV head Ahuva Feinmesser, who resigned last week, is media specialist Moti Sklar, who is religious and reputedly close to Hammer.

"They have been trying to get rid of Feinmesser for a year and a half," said Poraz.

The Education Ministry spokesperson said its legal staff was studying the ruling, but according to the Civil Service Commission Feinmesser was also appointed without competing in a tender.

Civil Service Commission spokesman Arye Greenblatt contended that Feinmesser was appointed to her post in 1994, but added this was legal under civil service regulations, which allow for intra-service transfers by appointment.

In the case of a promotion, however, the position could either be put out to tender or the candidate could appear before a committee. Feinmesser appeared before a committee.

Sklar is not in the civil service.

Australian athletes to sue over bridge

SYDNEY - More than 40 Australian athletes hurt in the bridge collapse that occurred at the opening of the Maccabiah Games, plan to sue over the accident which also killed four colleagues and left many ill from polluted water, their attorney said yesterday.

Attorney Peter Redlich said the athletes would sue the Maccabi World Union which organized the games, municipal authorities, and the contractors and sub-contractors who built the bridge.

"We are seeking general damages for pain and suffering and pecuniary damage for economic loss," Redlich said.

Redlich said he hoped the case would "set new benchmarks" for the calculation of personal injury damages in Israel.

Two athletes died at the scene of the July accident and 43 were injured. Another two died later from infections caused by the water.

At least 10 athletes have fallen ill since returning to Australia, many with respiratory problems.

Redlich said all his clients had suffered physical injuries, with many also suffering psychological trauma.

He hoped investigations in Israel would be concluded by the end of the month so the defendants could

be identified and water samples taken from the Yarkon River.

Redlich said the suit was a combined action.

He would not specify the extent of damages being sought as compensation for what he described as "an extraordinary degree of negligence."

He believed other individual suits would be pursued by the families of those who died and from the family of 15-year-old Sasha Elterman, who remains in hospital with a brain abscess which doctors say was caused by polluted water.

Peter Elterman, Sasha's father, said he had sought to take up the matter alone.

"We have an independent representation as I believe do three of the families who lost loved ones," Elterman told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

"We feel that it's very hard for everyone to sue together, plus some of these representatives... are suing through the Maccabiah World Union and some through Maccabi Australia and we want to be totally independent from that," he said.

Elterman said he was meeting

yesterday with an Australian Justice Department representative, who would outline to him how the case was expected to proceed.

His immediate priority was the health of Sasha before seeing that the right people were brought to justice over the accident, he said.

He said his daughter's health had improved slightly in the past two days and she was in a stable condition.

Maccabi Australia president Tom Goldman was quoted as saying many of the athletes wanted those responsible to face criminal charges. "Nobody's really stood up and been held accountable and responsible," Goldman said.

Goldman said Israel and the Maccabi World Union had agreed to give a \$1 million loan to help Australian team members, who would repay the loan from subsequent compensation payments. In August Maccabi Australia began its own investigation into the incident, with water samples from the river being sent to laboratories in Australia and the United States.

An Israeli inquiry found in July that faulty design, materials and construction led to the disaster. (News agencies)

Weizman plea leads to release of 6 Israelis from Indian jail

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Six young Israelis who were sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for drug abuse in Goa have been released by an Indian court of appeal. The release came following a plea by President Ezer Weizman to the Indian government for the youngsters' release on humanitarian grounds, made during his state visit to India in January.

At the time, the Indians promised they would consider the appeal favorably, and Beit Hanassi

continued to follow up the case.

The Foreign Ministry, which had maintained contacts with the Indian authorities on the subject, yesterday lauded the decision by the Goa court.

The six were jailed early last year under a law requiring a mandatory minimum of 10 years' imprisonment for the possession of more than five grams of hashish. They appealed with the help of local lawyers.

Former Foreign Ministry legal adviser Robbie Sabel was appointed to deal with the legal aspects of

the case from the Israeli side.

The offenders were travelling after completing their military service and none had previous convictions. They were all released over the past few days and are awaiting papers which will allow them to leave India.

Meanwhile, contacts are under way between the two countries for the signing of a prisoner-exchange agreement which would permit those sentenced abroad to serve their sentence in a prison in their homeland. Israel has a similar agreement with Thailand.

Jerusalem hospital plans to expand

By JUDY SEGEL

Jerusalem's Misgav Ladach obstetrics and community hospital has launched an international fundraising campaign for \$9 million to double its size and turn it into a general hospital with all major services, including an emergency room.

But Health Ministry spokesman Dudi Ben-Ami said yesterday that

Misgav Ladach should wait, as "in the meantime, the ministry has not yet approved such a move."

Shlomo Peretz, a spokesman for the 150-year-old hospital, said the institution's international board will soon meet abroad to formally approve the raising of \$5.5 million to build another three floors covering 5,400 square meters, plus \$3.5 million to equip them. Instead of being just an obstetrics/gynecology

hospital which also performs minor urological surgery and has various outpatient clinics, Misgav Ladach wants to be a full-fledged public medical institution.

Misgav Ladach has suffered from various managerial problems and even some personnel scandals in recent years, but they have quieted down with the naming of Dr. Moshe Cohen as administrative director.

Labor MKs submit bill for early elections

Labor whip Ra'anan Cohen and party colleague MK Haim Ramon have submitted a bill calling for the early dissolution of the Knesset and new elections.

Ramon said he filed the bill because of the government's failure to fight terrorism, the deterioration in the peace process, the deterioration in relations with Arab countries, and the increasing diplomatic isolation of the country. He also mentioned the crisis of confidence between the prime minister and his ministers.

Arabs seek candidate for PM

MK Walid Sadek (Meretz) has asked the Arab Steering Committee, the umbrella body for Israeli Arabs, to decide on a candidate for the premiership from among the Arab population.

Sadek said he took the step after

Labor leader Ehud Barak said he would establish a national unity government if he were elected prime minister. Sadek said Barak should remember that without the Arab vote he could not be elected. He said a national unity government which ignores Meretz and the Arabs would not further the peace process.

Dispute over Har Meron

The Knesset Interior Committee, chaired by Sallah Tarif (Labor), decided yesterday that if no agreement is reached between the residents of Beit Jaon and the Nature Reserves Authority, Tarif's bill allowing the residents to use their land in the Har Meron Nature Reserve as they want will be brought up for first reading in the Knesset.

The bill, which follows a long-standing and often violent dispute

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

between the residents of the Druse village and the NRA, raised the ire of environmental groups when it recently passed preliminary reading.

MKs against amnesty

In a Knesset debate late Monday night, the eight MKs present united against the idea of a general amnesty to mark the 50th anniversary of the state. The MKs voted against the amnesty and supported the following statement: "The Knesset sees the president as the only authority able to grant amnesty."

4,300 empty public flats

There are more than 4,300

empty apartments belonging to public companies, including some 1,400 in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, all of which cost millions of shekels a year to maintain.

Many of these are empty for more than three years. These are some of the figures presented at the Knesset Public Complaints Committee yesterday.

The Housing and Construction Ministry and the Immigration and Absorption Ministry keep avoiding responsibility, and the victims are new immigrants who need housing solutions, both committee chairman Rafi Elul and Sofa Landver (both Labor) said at the end of the meeting.

Elul said it costs the government more than NIS 80 million a year to maintain these apartments and said the money could be better spent elsewhere.

The committee members said the empty apartments turn into

hideouts for drug users and criminals.

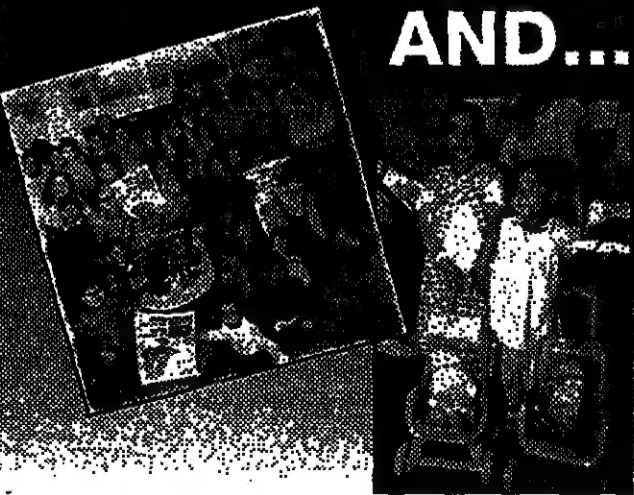
Landver, who brought a group of new immigrants to the meeting, described the situation as "a national crime."

The committee is demanding a cabinet meeting on the subject and asked for a state authority to be created to monitor the situation, collect figures on empty apartments and find the immigrants or needy people who can live in them.

Pines wants PM's budget checked

MK Ophir Pines (Labor) has asked Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) to examine the prime minister's budget following reports his entourage required 100 hotel rooms during the recent visit to the US.

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Livnat praises media for raising awareness about domestic violence

By LIAT COLLINS

It is unusual for a cabinet member to praise the press, but that's just what Communications Minister Limor Livnat did in the Knesset yesterday. Livnat praised journalists — or at least women journalists — who have raised public awareness about domestic violence.

"It's our public and moral obligation in the government to budget for [action against domestic violence.] We can't escape this responsibility," Livnat said at a special meeting marking the International Day Against Violence Against Women.

She said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is the first premier who personally became involved in the fight against domestic violence.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai also has taken initiative in combating violence, she said.

"I am obliged as a person, women, minister and MK to this issue," Livnat said, though she could not promise extra funding.

The Knesset passed a string of preliminary bills and heard several motions on violence against women.

Among the bills considered yesterday was one increasing to one year the period a violent person can be removed from the family home; another bill calls for victims to be informed when an offender is about to be released from prison; a government bill calls for forming a state authority to coordinate policy on domestic violence; and another would make it mandatory for people such as health-care workers to report suspected cases of domestic violence.

MK Yael Dayan (Labor), who chairs the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women, stressed that violence against women occurs in all sectors and throughout the country.

Unlike in most other countries, in Israel a woman can safely walk the streets at night but might be afraid to go home because of domestic violence, Dayan said.

The president's wife, Reuma Weizman, praised the gathering, but said that actions speak louder than words.



The president's wife Reuma Weizman (center) examines a certificate presented to those who pledge to fight violence against women before signing it on behalf of her husband and herself at a ceremony at Beit Hanassi yesterday. WIZO officials have asked the prime minister, Knesset speaker, MKs, and other officials to sign the pledge.

(Avi Hayon)

that violence against women occurs in all sectors and throughout the country.

She and President Ezer Weizman earlier signed a certificate promising to act against violence and provide a personal example.

"It's a sad day," she said. "There are some women for whom [every day] of the year is a sad day."

The discussions focused on the lack of the budget necessary to finance solutions and on insuffi-

cient punishments.

The Jewish Agency has budgeted more than NIS 4 million since 1996 and for 1998 on dozens of programs to combat violence against women, Itim reported yesterday.

However, the number of complaints filed about domestic violence has risen, according to figures Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani released yes-

terday.

Police opened 17,292 files in response to complaints about domestic violence in October and November this year, compared to 16,652 in the same period last year.

Of these, 11,953 resulted in criminal convictions this year, compared to 9,387 last year. About 76% of the cases were filed by women.

Police opened 17,292 files in response to complaints about domestic violence in October and November this year, compared to 16,652 in the same period last year.

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Coalition MKs threaten to vote against budget

By DAVID HARRIS

MKs from Likud and Yisrael Ba'Aliya yesterday threatened to vote against the 1998 state budget if the Treasury refuses to make changes to the proposals that they say will hit the disadvantaged.

The threats from MKs Shaul Amor (Likud), Yosi Stern, Roman Brodman and Michael Nudelman (Yisrael Ba'Aliya) were made as Finance Minister Yassov Neeman addressed the Knesset social caucus.

MKs from all parties condemned the budget proposal, which includes an NIS 2.3 billion cut in public spending. The key concerns are over planned cuts to child allowances, health services and education, said Amor. Other MKs claimed housing is also a key area that demands investment rather than cuts.

Unless the Treasury keeps its promises on housing, made to Yisrael Ba'Aliya on the eve of the budget's first reading, the party will vote against the budget, said Stern.

He argued that pumping cash into construction and housing is

New lobby formed for promoting Sephardi culture

Shaul Amor (Likud) yesterday founded a lobby for Sephardi culture in the Knesset.

Among those who signed the petition were MKs Shaul Amor (Likud), Yosi Stern, Roman Brodman and Michael Nudelman (Yisrael Ba'Aliya).

The lobby's first task will be to promote the Sephardi community's needs in the Knesset.

Shaul Amor (Likud) said that the Sephardi community is being neglected and that the Knesset should take action to promote its needs.

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Netanya municipal workers go on strike

By SARAH HERSHENSON

Netanya municipal workers plan to go on strike today to protest recent salary reductions. Local services will be almost shut down, with garbage collectors, teachers and employees at municipal nursery schools joining workers in the municipal taxation, information, land development and tourism offices taking part in the strike.

Salaries were cut as part of efforts to curb Netanya's budget deficit, according to a city spokeswoman.

"The mayor, Zvi Poleg, has no choice," the city spokeswoman said. "He does not want to order massive layoffs and is trying to rebuild the budget. In any case, the government must step in now and help us as they do other cities in crisis."

Menahem Mizrahi, head of the Netanya municipal workers committee, does not agree and said he is not willing to wait.

Perhaps the strike will not be felt the first day, he said, but it will be felt after several.

Residents of Netanya, which

has a large Anglo-Saxon population, are questioning the effectiveness of Israel's frequent strikes. "Doesn't anyone talk things over in this country and come to a negotiated settlement?" queried Roger Jackson, a recent immigrant from the US.

"We just missed so much school because of student strikes regarding cancellation of school trips," said Tova Meltzer, a high-school English teacher. "We need to teach and the students need to learn. They have tests and [matriculation exams] coming up

soon. Where is your heart?"

It certainly is not with the students, Holly Nosatsky said. She and the other mothers have been asked to take turns filling the places of the city workers in the pre-school her child attends.

"It is basically being 'Cleaner for the Day.' I did it once, and I am not going to do it again. It's the system's problem and the system must deal with it."

"Moreover," she asked, "how do you explain to a three or four year old when he asks, 'Why is there no [school] today?'"

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Corrupting progress

Union scandals threaten US labor's new and improved image

By FRANK SWOBODA
AND EDWARD WALSH

WASHINGTON - Earlier this fall, with unions under attack in Congress, the AFL-CIO decided to check its image with a group of non-union workers in Baltimore. The answer from one young woman was not what they wanted to hear.

"I've seen all the old movies," she told members of her focus group. "I know what unions are all about."

From *On the Waterfront* to *Hoffa* the Hollywood portrait of organized labor has often been one of corruption and violence by union bosses and Mafia dons. Image problems are nothing new to organized labor.

But the spreading scandal in the Teamsters union threatens to inflict new, long-term damage to organized labor just as it has been showing signs of revitalization both within its own ranks and in public opinion. A revival of the old image of "corrupt labor bosses," union officials fear, could turn public opinion against them and weaken their influence at the ballot box and in Congress.

Three months ago, opinion polls showed strong public support for the Teamsters strike against United Parcel Service (UPS) despite widespread public inconvenience. Labor had managed to tap into concerns over job security and part-time work.

When the Teamsters won the strike, union leaders were euphoric, hailing the outcome as the end of a dark era that began 15 years earlier when US President Ronald Reagan fired striking air-traffic controllers.

The euphoria was short-lived. Three days after the UPS settlement, a federal elections officer threw out Teamsters President Ron Carey's narrow victory over rival James P. Hoffa and ordered a new election, citing a network of illegal financial schemes by Carey's campaign.

Three key Carey operatives have pleaded guilty to criminal charges,

and the scandal threatens to reach into other unions and the AFL-CIO itself as a federal grand jury in New York continues its investigation.

Then, a week ago, another federal elections official disqualified Carey from running in the new election because, he said, evidence showed that Carey personally knew of the illegal financing schemes. Carey has denied knowledge of any illegal actions and said he plans to appeal.

Federal officials are also investigating the finances of the Hoffa campaign and have postponed the election at least until the spring.

UNION LEADERS insist the scandals will have minimal impact on their future political and organizing efforts, but they are the first to admit it won't help.

"This isn't going to take us off center stage," said Bruce Raynor, executive vice president of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees and one of the few union leaders willing to talk on the record. Raynor said he expects labor to continue the "grass-roots, in-your-face" political efforts that it began in the last election.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, in a letter Friday to the leaders of the federation's member unions, said: "Clearly, many special interests would like to see us fail, and political opponents are seizing every opportunity to quash our comeback and silence the voices of working people... Now, more than ever, we need to be unified and aggressive."

Privately, labor officials are apprehensive. Their major concern is that the scandal could spread to other unions that have been supporters of the Sweeney regime and even into the AFL-CIO leadership.

The presidents of the Service Employees International Union and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka, all Sweeney allies, have

been named in various court documents as participants in some of the alleged schemes that got Carey disqualified.

The more the Teamsters scandal appears to implicate other unions the greater the danger that it will taint the entire labor movement, reversing the gains that have been made in the last two years and fracturing the coalition within labor that led to Sweeney's election.

"You don't want the whole labor movement bleeding all over the streets from this," said one union official.

Alan Secrest, a Democratic pollster, said Republicans and their allies will clearly try to link Democrats to the image of "corrupt union bosses" in next year's elections.

"One can argue that anything that lends credibility to that is damaging," he said. "One can also argue that this is old news and not salient in 1998. People have heard stories about corrupt unions before."

DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL candidates certainly hope so. Under Sweeney, the AFL-CIO has become a major player in congressional elections and poured \$35 million into the 1996 campaign to defeat targeted Republicans and elect friendly Democrats.

That the scandals will be inconsequential sounds overly optimistic to R. Bruce Josten, a senior vice president of the US Chamber of Commerce, who took the lead in organizing 33 other business groups to mount a counteroffensive to the union attacks on GOP candidates in the 1996 campaign. Sweeney's success so far has come from moving labor away from the old image, "to craft a new image of openness and responsiveness."

"If I were John Sweeney, this [the Teamsters scandal] would not be good news," Josten said.

For Republicans, said Mike Murphy, a GOP media consultant, "there's nothing like a good old-fashioned labor scandal."

Murphy said the Teamsters' problems will fuel the GOP-sup-

ported drive for enactment of measures, including a proposed initiative in California, to require that union members give advance approval for the use of any portion of their union dues for political purposes, a step bitterly opposed by the AFL-CIO and its Democratic allies.

The AFL-CIO plans to mount another well-financed assault on GOP candidates in 1998. But if it does, Murphy said, Republicans can now "really punch back. Look, you say, a corrupt voice is not a credible voice in politics."

A Democratic consultant who asked not to be identified reluctantly shared that assessment. In 1996, he said, the most effective response that Republicans had to the AFL-CIO's advertising campaign was that "this is just big-labor money trying to buy the election."

But now, he said, "you have not just labor bosses, but corrupt, jailed labor bosses. It gets pretty devastating."

But while the political fallout for labor is uncertain, the impact of the Teamsters scandal, on Sweeney's top priority - organizing more workers - is likely to be "minuscule," according to Richard Hurd, professor of labor studies at Cornell University.

"Workers very seldom make a decision [to be represented by a union] based on national events or images," he said. "They don't think of the national union, they think of the local organizer."

Hurd said that if the scandal spreads, it could distract from organizing efforts, but not enough to undo the benefits of the UPS strike.

"The general perception is that unions are no longer relevant or effective," Hurd said. "The UPS strike did a lot to change attitudes toward unions... It touched a lot more people than the Teamsters election."

"If you took a survey, most people would know about the UPS strike. If you asked them who Ron Carey is, nobody would know." (Washington Post)



Pilgrimage to the slopes

Three employees of Vermont's Sugarbush ski resort, dressed as Pilgrims, ride the chairlift. Skiers are thankful for the natural snow that's fallen in advance of the Thanksgiving holiday. (AP)

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But now, he said, "you...
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But while the political...
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ing more workers - is...
muscular," according to...
Hurd, professor of labor...
Cornell University.

"Workers very seldom...
decision to be...
union," he said. "They...
think of the national...
think of the local...
Hurd said that if the...
spread, it could...
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to union the benefits...
of the strike."

"The general perception...
unions are no longer...
effective," Hurd said. "The...
strike is a lot to change...
toward unions. It...
more people than the...
election."

"If you know a strike...
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Japan struggles to cope with Yamaichi gloom

By LINDA SIEG

TOKYO (Reuters) - Tokyo share prices sagged and the yen slumped yesterday as investors worried the collapse of "Big Four" brokerage Yamaichi Securities meant more financial failures were in store.

Government officials, however, pledged to do all in their power to prevent a financial meltdown, while politicians moved a step closer to deciding on the politically tricky maneuver of using public funds to stabilize the financial system.

"We will take all necessary measures to ensure stability in the financial system," Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka told reporters as the Nikkei fell.

Employees at Yamaichi, the nation's oldest and fourth-largest brokerage, returned to work after a three-day weekend, some disgruntled but some resigned to its collapse.

"It was my own decision to go to work for this company 10 years ago, and it was my decision to stay on," one employee said on NHK television late on Monday after Yamaichi's closure was announced by a tearful company president.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, out of the country in Vancouver at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, sought to calm global fears that Japan might be the next domino to fall in Asia's crisis.

Hashimoto said that Japan's woes should not be lumped

together with the currency woes plaguing other Asian nations. "I would like to make clear that Japan's problems are completely separate from those of the so-called Asian currency crisis," he told reporters, adding the world's second-largest economy could solve its own financial problems, unlike others such as South Korea which have had to ask the IMF for bailouts.

US Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers also played down comparisons with the rest of Asia, noting that Japan has the world's second-largest economy, has a high savings rate, low unemployment and "very impressive" productivity.

But Summers, like US President Bill Clinton in a meeting with

Hashimoto, stressed that it was crucial for Japan to resume strong economic growth led by domestic demand in order to lead other Asian economies back to health.

Yamaichi's collapse, Tokyo's third financial failure this month, limp domestic spending.

One worry is that Yamaichi's failure - long-rumored but in the end triggered by revelations of off-balance-sheet debts, including possible illegal deals - could spark a wider financial collapse in Japan as lenders tighten credit lines.

The "Japan premium" - the extra cost charged Japanese banks to raise funds abroad - widened yesterday as the banks were forced to pay a higher rate for eurodollar funds, and analysts said it was unlikely to fall for now.

The Bank of Japan, moving as promised to protect Yamaichi's client assets, said it had provided 800 billion yen (\$6.25 billion) in special loans as of noon yesterday and reaffirmed it stood ready to provide needed liquidity if a

shortage of funds arose.

News that Yamaichi had hidden some of the off-book losses for six years and that regulators had failed to uncover the misdeeds have renewed criticism of Japan's financial disclosure and officials' detective work, exacerbating fears that other failures lurk whatever firms might say.

The off-balance sheet mess also complicates the question of whether buyers will emerge for parts of Yamaichi.

Analysts said Yamaichi's retail network, for example, might be a good buy at current cheap prices, but added any final moves must wait until an official probe clarifies the murky state of the broker's books.

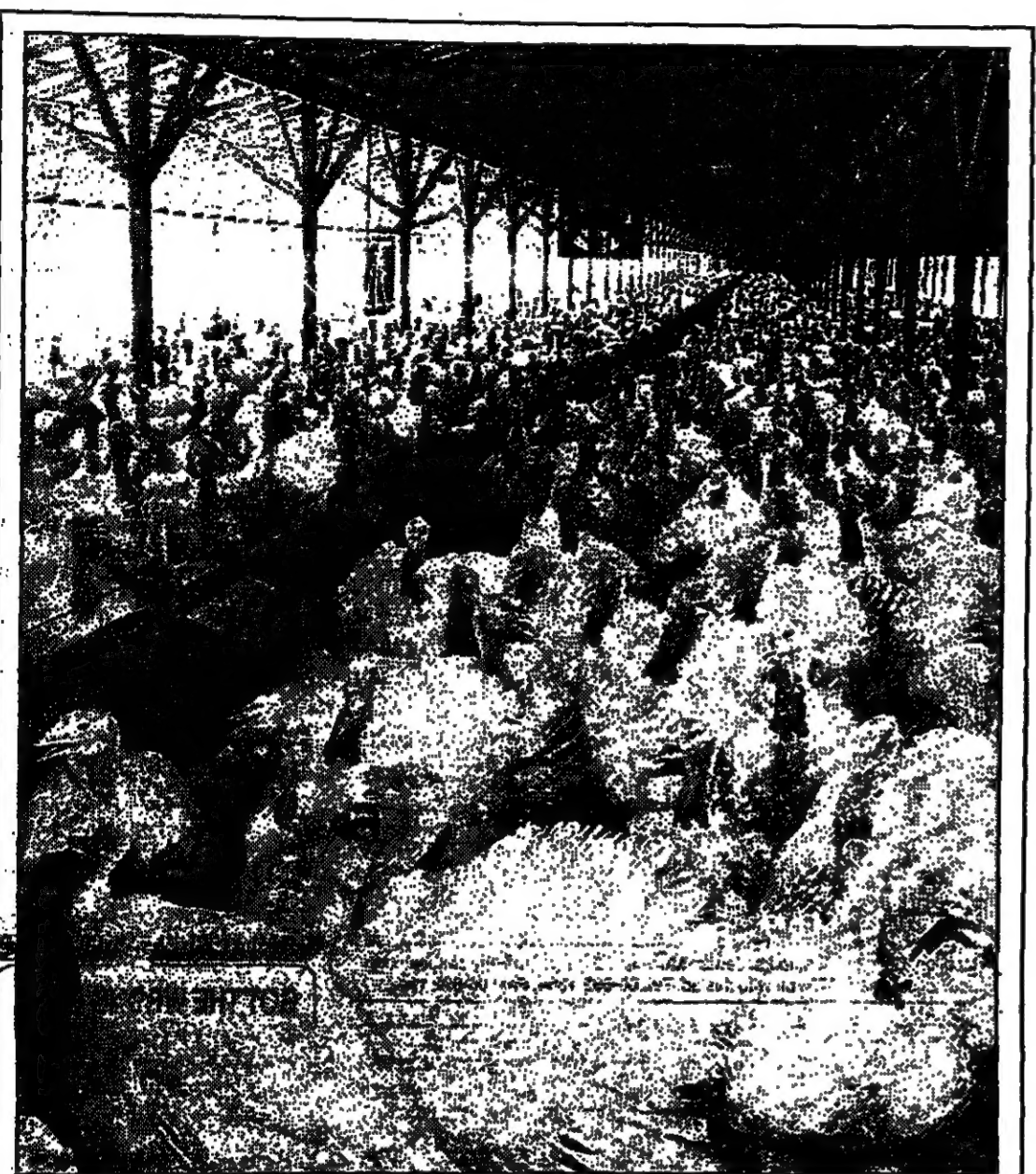
While concerns persist that a

financial crunch could prompt Japanese institutions to sell their huge holdings of US Treasury bonds, some experts dismissed such fears as overdone.

"I do believe Japanese institutional investors' financial position will not deteriorate that much that they would be forced to liquidate their [US Treasuries] portfolios," Toyoo Gyohten, a former vice finance minister of international affairs, told a media luncheon.

Amid the jitters, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party moved a step closer to deciding on the use of public money to help the financial system clean up its bad loan mess. An LDP source said a party subpanel was building a consensus on the politically touchy topic.

Yamaichi copes with withdrawals, Page 13
Market roundup, Page 16



Happy Thanksgiving
North Carolina turkey growers have battled disease, flat demand and high feed prices to produce this healthy lot of birds for the Thanksgiving holiday being celebrated tomorrow throughout the US. (AP)

Fighting corruption is key to Asia's economic crisis

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) - During the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, Thailand's new prime minister needed to look no further than a courtroom north of Vancouver to realize that corruption is one of the big challenges his struggling economy faces.

In the ski resort of Whistler, 100 kilometers from this Canadian port city, fugitive financial adviser Rakesh Saxena is fighting extradition to Thailand on embezzlement charges.

Thai police accuse him of a key role in the 78 billion baht (\$3.1 billion) of bad debt rung up by the Bangkok Bank of Commerce, which went into receivership 18 months ago and exposed financial weaknesses leading up to Thailand's currency meltdown.

The mid-size bank is believed to have been a vehicle for money laundering and shady deals benefiting gangsters and politicians, though none has been charged yet. Thailand's legal system is often easily circumvented by the rich and powerful.

In fact, the bank scandal and the corruption around it are just the kinds of problems that East Asia must solve before it can revive its faltering economies. And that has long been the case in Thailand.

Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, appearing in his first major international forum since taking power two weeks ago, tried hard at the APEC summit to convince the

other 17 leaders that Asia's spreading financial crisis isn't all Thailand's fault.

Thailand was the first of Asia's dominoes to fall in the economic crisis that has rocked markets around the globe.

Indonesia and South Korea, like Thailand, have sought rescue packages from the International Monetary Fund.

"It's no use blaming one another," Chuan said. "It's the task of each country to solve individual problems." But businessmen and economists believe the individual problems Thailand faces will take longer to rectify than the five or six months that Chuan estimates for turning the economy around, since they go deeper than cutting budgets and closing bad banks.

How well he succeeds could be an indication whether Asian political and social progress can keep pace - and help sustain - economic growth beyond boom-bust swings.

"Deep-rooted corruption," inadequate education, backward bureaucrats, and politics based on bribes and patronage, not policy, helped put the Asian economies in the IMF emergency room.

In a global survey of corruption by the Germany-based group Transparency International this year, the only Asian entities in the cleaner top half were Singapore

and Hong Kong. They have been the least affected by the recent turmoil in Asia.

The corruption problem was barely broached during official APEC meetings in Vancouver, but Chuan alluded to the topic in a speech to leading Canadians, noting that his people want a government "of integrity, transparency and accountability."

Top Pacific Rim businessmen, at a separate conference last week, said that corruption needs to be excised from business and politics for Asia to recover in the long term.

A cleanup would lead to greater efficiency of investment capital, with less being raked off into non-productive pockets.

Investor confidence would likely be higher and slow capital flight the next time things turn bad.

"Business and politics are intertwined, there's no escaping that," said Gary Tooker, chairman of the US-based Motorola Corp., and of the Pacific Basin Economic Council, a regional grouping of 1,000 businesses that met - of all places - in Whistler.

Chuan, 59, has a reputation for moderation and personal honesty, contrasting with his populist predecessor, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, a former general who compared his failed programs to save the Thai currency to military cam-

paigns.

Chavalit, who won an election seen as the dirtiest in Thai history, resigned after 11 tumultuous months, during which half the country's financial institutions were shut down and the currency lost more than 40 percent of its value against the US dollar.

The son of a food vendor and a lawyer by training, Chuan has a more deliberate management style and heads the only major party in Thai politics, the Democrats, widely perceived as honest.

He served as prime minister from 1992, in the first elected government following a spell of military rule. However, a real estate scandal involving one of his ministers broke up his administration in 1995.

The Democrats are the favorites of the business and financial community but head a fragile eight-party coalition that could come unstuck at any time. Recent Thai governments have lasted a year on average.

Chuan supported an anti-corruption constitution approved by parliament in September. Thais demonstrated for it in Bangkok, convinced their economic salvation lies in cleaner government.

Chuan noted Monday that the last time he visited Canada as prime minister, in 1993, the booming Asian economies were the envy of the world.

Now, he said, "Optimism and confidence are out and uncertainty and gloom are in."

BACKGROUND
By PATRICK MCOWELL

German on trial for 1942 Nazi slayings

COLOGNE, (AP) - A former member of a Nazi paramilitary unit went on trial yesterday. He is accused of standing guard while colleagues gunned down about 65 Jews in Ukraine in 1942.

Ernst Hering, who turned 75 yesterday, is charged with being an accessory to the murders, which included about 20 children.

Hering rejected the charges, saying he aided in sealing off the village but found out only later that the Jews had been killed.

Russia: Give Iraq light at tunnel's end

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who defused a crisis between the United Nations and Iraq last week, warned against "cornering" Baghdad.

"While favoring strict fulfillment by Baghdad of [UN] Security Council resolutions, at the same time we believe it would be counterproductive to corner Baghdad," the Russian minister said in Buenos Aires.

"On the contrary, it would be of vital importance to give the Iraqi side the possibility of seeing the light at the end of the tunnel [on the lifting of sanctions]," Primakov said on Monday in a speech to the Argentine Council of International Affairs on the second leg of his four-nation Latin American tour.

Primakov flew straight to Brazil last week from Geneva, where he successfully persuaded Iraq to end its three-week stand-off with the United Nations and allow

American weapons inspectors back in the country.

In turn he promised Iraq to work towards the lifting of sanctions on exports, such as oil, which are linked to a clean bill of health on weapons. Iraq has been under trade sanctions since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The 68-year-old minister, an Arabist who has known Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for years, said the rare diplomatic success was due to President Boris Yeltsin's "direct participation in efforts to avoid a military confrontation" and was "proof of the growing role that Russia is playing in world affairs."

UN inspectors, including Americans, returned to Iraq on Saturday to continue searches for materials or programs relating to Iraq's chemical, biological and ballistic weapons programs.

Russia has been doing its best at the United Nations to examine in

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Moderate, modern or Moslem

Iran's new president is more moderate than the previous one. Who says?

Even more to the point: Who says it matters?

"He is not more moderate," says Henry Kissinger. "I have seen no sign of it. He is more modern, that is all."

Moderate, modern, pragmatic, fundamental — all are terms loaded with "How does it affect us in the West?"

There is a tendency to speak of Iraq and Iran in the same breath, as if they are two of a kind. They are not.

From a Western or Israeli standpoint, Iran of course is a problematic state. It is hostile, fundamentalist, dead set against our value systems. But it is a long way from being the Iraq of Saddam.

Iran has a functioning state system and a government that mainly works. In Iran, the president steps down when his term is done, and the people vote for a new government.

It is a vote severely hemmed in by the religious camp and the Ayatollah Khomeini constitution, but it is a vote. The people do not hesitate to take to the streets to demonstrate against a bad economy, or too much religious coercion, or too much religious laxity.

Blunder alley

Iran is much more important than Iraq and it is a great shame it remains so isolated. It is the most serious power in the Gulf region and deserves respect as such. Its isolation is mainly its own decision; serious Middle East policy makers in Washington (or even Jerusalem) would dearly love to be diplomatically engaged with Iran.

The United States' hostility to Iran was understandable in light of the Tehran embassy hostage crisis. But it was still shortsighted to take Saddam's side in the Iran-Iraq war.

The US got nothing but grief from that blunder. Tacit US approval of Saddam's aggression against Iran cleared the way for the US business community to dump massive arsenals of nuclear, chemical and biological agents in his lap.

Overt American tolerance lulled Saddam into believing he could get away with seizing Kuwait. Thus the US chose the wrong side in Saddam's first war, only to end up fighting against him in his second.

In the current confrontation between Washington and Baghdad, it was interesting to note a comment in a Saudi newspaper last week. The editorial was titled "From confrontation to cooperation." The subject was not a plea for rapprochement with Iraq. It was a slice of generous praise for Iran.

Trade-off

While all eyes were on the

Baghdad Bozo, Iran's new foreign minister Kamal Kharrazi was quietly touring the Gulf States doing some preliminary fence-mending with Iran's Arab adversaries.

The Saudi *al-Riyadh* commented "Mr. Kharrazi might be new to his post, but he carries with him the face of the new policies of President Khatami, the face of optimism in creating an atmosphere of open cooperation."

It is interesting, because that might be the elusive first sign Mr. Kissinger is looking for: a shift in Tehran's approach to the outside world. Some experts have speculated that not only would the new President Mohammad Khatami not liberalize foreign

policy, but he might actually stiffen Iran's outward-directed hard line in a trade off with the mullahs for easing some domestic restrictions.

What we have seen in Iran's quiet Gulf diplomacy last week is the opposite: a friendlier face to the Arab world, but rising tension at home.

There are going to be no easy answers from Tehran. The situation in Iran seems yet another severe warning around the world never to let right-wing religious bigots get their hands on the reins of power.

Second guessed

Secular Iranians and Persian culture have lost so much to the mullahs of the holy city (Qom) that it is hard to see how Khatami could be any more successful than Ali Akbar Rafsanjani in rolling back the losses.

Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, once a leading light of the Khomeini revolution, now runs an important religious school in Qom. Not quite the reclusive cleric yet, he sharply warned the rabid Ayatollah Ali Khamenei this week that religious officials not chosen by popular vote are required only "to supervise, not to rule" the country.

That will have come as news to Khamenei, who modestly claims to represent the will of God on earth. His thuggish followers were quick to jump to the God-like tasks of ransacking secular political offices and the school of Montazeri.

Khatami, since his landslide victory against a religious conservative in May, has been bouncing around Iran in a populist pickup preaching a new gospel: "Iran first, Islam second."

Not nice! Whispers are being spread that Khatami is less than a true Moslem and may even be part of "a plot by world arrogance." (That's the United States and Israel, of course).

Moderate, modern, shomodem. Maybe he is, but don't bet on it mattering.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Asia's financial undercurrents

Fear that the currency crisis will worsen and spread dominates the APEC summit

By DAVID THURBER

VANCOUVER — "It's like a disease," said Henry Kao, a Taiwanese delegate, with a shrug of helplessness. "Next it could spread to Hong Kong, Taiwan, or even Japan."

"It" — the currency crisis that has swept the once-vibrant Asian region — is the subject overshadowing the 18-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit that began here Monday.

Kao said he hopes the leaders will be able to find a solution. "This time it's currencies, but next time it could be something else," he said.

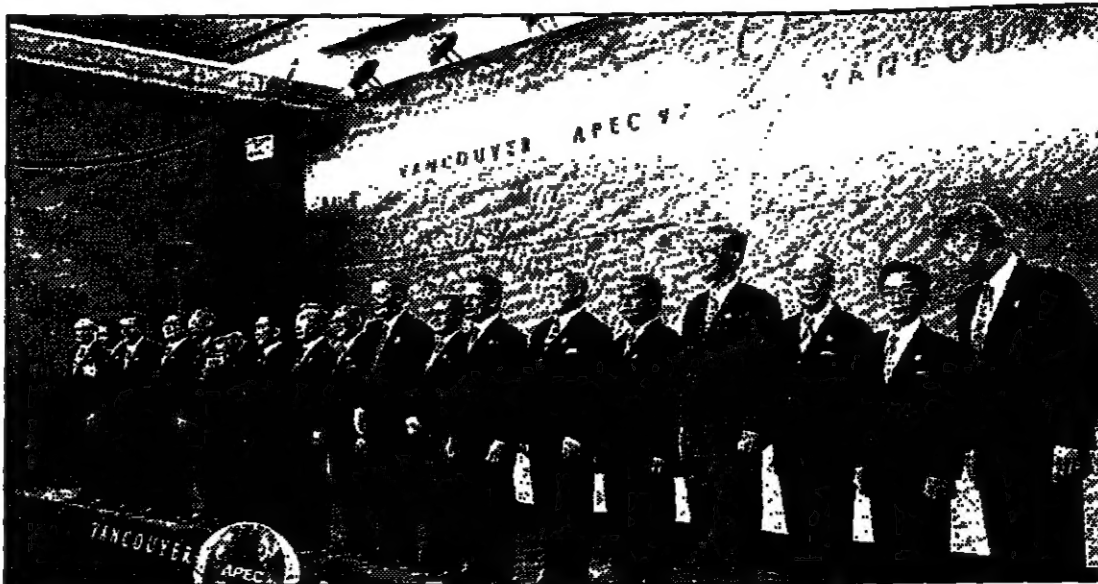
But others in the region have begun to question APEC's holy grail of globalization and free trade, which have opened the region's economies to the vagaries of the world market.

The recent economic situation in Korea makes the people a little uncomfortable about APEC, said South Korean delegate Shin Chul-su as he listened to his country's president reassure Koreans in Canada that their country would recover — if citizens sacrifice together.

For the past five months Asian nations, once proud and confident of their economic achievements, have watched as speculative attacks have pushed their currencies down by as much as 40 percent against the dollar.

A region that for years was the darling of international investors has suddenly become a pariah for many. Economic growth has slowed, stock markets have plunged, and bankruptcies have increased.

"It's a real shock," says



Delegates from the 18 participating nations pose this week for a photo prior to the summit's first meeting. Some Asians are questioning APEC's holy grail of globalization and free trade, which exposed the region to the unpredictable nature of the world market.

Sudrajat, an official accompanying Indonesian President Suharto.

"Our economy kept growing by about 8% a year for 20 years. All of a sudden it stopped," he said. "We'll be lucky if we have stagnation instead of a recession."

Thailand has closed 58 insolvent financial institutions, while Indonesia has shut 16, including one owned by Suharto's son.

Taiwan and other countries that have avoided the worst of the crisis worry that they too could succumb, while those already affected watch as the turmoil caused by each new victim roils their markets once again.

Last week the most recent victim became South Korea, long held up as a model "economic miracle" by the World Bank. Japan is also showing signs of economic distress, with a near-stagnant economy and the collapse Monday of Yamaichi Securities, its largest corporate failure since World War II.

The currency crisis has snowballed as it has spread: as more countries succumb, investors who hold currencies or stocks in other Asian nations have sold them out of the expectation that they, too, will fall.

"There is concern that these con-

tagion effects could spread; this is why there is a sense of urgency in dealing with the crisis at the meetings," said Philippine Finance Secretary Robert De Ocampo.

What makes the crisis most surprising is that economic prospects had been considered rosy for the region's countries, which believed they were following proper economic rules.

For years, high interest rates offered by Asia's rapidly growing countries were a magnet for foreign investors. The investors did not worry about foreign exchange fluctuations, since many nations pegged their currencies to the dollar.

The large currency inflows allowed the countries to grow rapidly. But some of the money went to cronies of those in power and to other unproductive investments such as real-estate speculation. Many companies took on huge debt loads, expecting the economy would keep growing.

But the region's growth rate began to slip about two years ago as inefficiencies grew and international demand for products such as electronics weakened.

The problems were especially acute in Thailand. Banks, speculators and other holders of its currency sold their holdings, expecting it to lose value, and Thailand's central bank was forced to release its peg.

Speculators then attacked other less-troubled Asian currencies, forcing them to depreciate as well. Weaker currencies can be an advantage for a country by making its exports more competitive, but they also boost the costs of imported oil, factory equipment and components.

Malaysia, for example, contributes just 15% of the value of the semiconductor it assembles from imported parts, analysts say. The higher prices and weaker domestic demand are expected to force Asian countries to cut their imports from the rest of the world.

Some economists estimate that the Asian turmoil will slice about 0.3 percentage points off growth in the US and Europe next year. Japan, which depends more on the Asian market, could be hit harder.

But a significant worsening of the crisis, including a spread to other countries such as Japan, could have a far more serious effect. (AP)

The trouble with Hubbell

Hungry for cash, Webb Hubbell is out drumming up publicity for his new book, but if he's the link that can take Whitewater to the White House, he's not telling

By FRANK ARENS

WASHINGTON — Webb Hubbell wants to apologize. But does anyone care? Poll after poll shows that most of America (1) doesn't understand Whitewater and (2) doesn't care to. If Americans remember Hubbell at all, it's probably as a hulking fall guy somehow associated with the interminable Arkansas land scandal that may lead to the White House.

Or may not.

The more informed Whitewater fan may know that Hubbell, 49, spent 18 months in jail for bilking his law clients and his former employer, the Rose Law Firm of Little Rock, Ark. Also, that he, Hillary Clinton and the late Vince Foster were close friends at Rose before they all came to Washington, swept in by Bill Clinton's 1992 election.

So if the average American has any image of Hubbell, it's probably as an affable, drawing Arkansas, a buddy of the first couple, who turned out to be a felon. The general public may have neither the time nor the inclination to listen to Hubbell's apology. Unlike Nixon, he's not grand enough to seem malignant. And unlike Robert MacNamara — whom people very

much wanted to hear apologize, even if they didn't believe him — Hubbell hasn't become a linchpin for history. He already feels as far away as Bert Lance.

And he's not denying any of this. "I don't need forgiveness from people. The one person I needed to get forgiveness from, I got a long time ago — that was God," he says. "But I needed to apologize."

He does so at length in a book released Monday: *Friends in High Places: Our Journey From Little Rock to Washington, D.C.* (Morrow).

Whitewater junkies and conspiracy theorists might be disappointed by the book. There are no shattering revelations, no smoking gun, no damning details. A lot of people — including Whitewater independent counsel Kenneth Starr — think Hubbell knows more than he's telling. Some think he's the link that can take Whitewater to the White House.

Asked why he didn't write a tell-all book, Hubbell laughs with exasperation: "I keep telling you: I don't know all!"

Of course, there is another possible reason: Hubbell is still under investigation by Starr, this time for about \$500,000 in consulting fees Hubbell received after he resigned

from the No. 3 post at the Justice Department in March 1994. Some of the money was paid by the Lippo Group, the Indonesian-based conglomerate at the center of inquiries into Democratic fundraising. At least one congressman has wondered aloud if it was "hush money" paid to keep Hubbell from singing to the feds about what he might know about Whitewater and the Clintons. Hubbell won't comment on the consulting money he was paid, saying that, even though he gave up his law license, he is still bound by attorney-client privilege.

So this book has another purpose: It is the most accessible documentation of what Hubbell says he knows. Starr unsuccessfully tried to have the manuscript subpoenaed before publication.

Finally, Hubbell had another reason to write: The need for cash.

Since he was sent to a federal minimum-security prison camp in Cumberland, Md., in August 1995, Hubbell's wife, Suzanna, has been the family's chief breadwinner, with her \$70,000-a-year job at the Department of the Interior. Hubbell himself, who made \$124,000 a year as associate attorney-general, now makes less than \$20,000 a year at the National Center on Institutions

and Alternatives in Alexandria, where he works on issues such as seeking prison release for elderly, nonviolent, first-offenders. He is in the first year of a three-year supervised release from Cumberland.

The Hubbells live with their youngest daughter in a rented townhouse in Northwest Washington. Both the rent and their daughter's education are partially underwritten by Hubbell's sister. If he has further legal fees, Hubbell says, he'll have to foot them.

"No one will touch me," he says. "If you're seen having dinner with Webb Hubbell, you could be subpoenaed the next day." He says he has not heard from the Clintons or old friends Mack McLarty or Vernon Jordan since his release. He is not bitter, he says. He understands he is "poison."

Now, he is, like any author, out drumming up publicity for his new book, trying to assure that it will at least recoup his \$400,000 advance.

He recounted the writing process, which began in prison and ended with ghostwriter. "There was so much I wanted to put in," Hubbell said. "It's hard to condense your life into 400-some pages." Hubbell kept an extensive journal of his prison life and the

memories of his life. He considers the writing — along with the psychological counseling he received just before he pleaded guilty to the charges that led to his imprisonment — to be his therapy.

He is an emotional man who, in the book, admits to getting misty when he watches the film *Brian's Song*. He lists pushing novelist Pat Conroy as one of his favorites. Hubbell says he admires the way Conroy writes about the South but allows that "he's a little caught up in his father."

Hubbell's own father was a strong influence on his son's life. An engineer himself, he urged Hubbell to get an electrical engineering degree and encouraged his son to play football.

The younger Hubbell went on to be a star left offensive tackle for the University of Arkansas Razorback football team that won the 1969 Sugar Bowl.

Hubbell enjoyed being The Man in Arkansas — star football player, Little Rock mayor, chief justice of the state supreme court, golfing buddy of Bill Clinton. At the same time, he felt insecure about his status and his income — his wife had come from a wealthy family and he wanted to maintain her standard of living.

(The Washington Post)

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A chance for a change of style

Avigdor Lieberman does not like it when he is portrayed as a two-bit strongman; the political version of the bouncer he once was. His press conference on Monday, to explain his resignation as Prime Minister's Office director-general, did everything to reinforce that impression as he lit into one after another of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rivals within the Likud.

Evidently, Lieberman is raring to return to his natural element, the struggle for control of the Likud party. It was Lieberman who masterminded Netanyahu's meteoric rise to power within the Likud; now Lieberman is settling accounts with rivals old and new. Clearly, Lieberman was miscast as a civil servant, who must transcend the role of party operative and help run a government that is responsible to all the people.

In general, newly elected political leaders often have difficulty switching gears from power-acquisition mode to employing power to govern effectively. The skills necessary to obtain power and to exercise it judiciously are very different, yet time and again political fixers are relied on to play the same role inside government.

Netanyahu, to begin with, embodies more of the characteristics of the campaign manager than that of a successful government leader: paranoia, a tendency to be constantly on the attack, and a preoccupation with power rather than policy. Lieberman seemed to represent all these tendencies in concentrated form.

With Lieberman gone, Netanyahu has an opportunity to turn to people with more experience in government than in political campaigns. Upon coming to office, Netanyahu promised a government of "excellence." As the last year-and-a-half has shown, not only is excellence a difficult target, but even basic competence cannot be taken for granted.

True, the previous government bequeathed Netanyahu the difficult challenges of reversing unrealistic Palestinian expectations and irresponsible fiscal policies. In broad strokes, Netanyahu has succeeded in corralling the peace process towards a more sober implementation of the Oslo Accords, while at the same time pushing toward the critical goal of final-status talks. On the economic front, he has fallen far short of the promised economic revolution, but

the budget is being brought under control, and important first steps are being taken in reducing government involvement in the economy.

What has most prevented Netanyahu from achieving more is not so much his choice of destinations, but the repeated mistakes made from lack of attention to the ship of government's basic mechanics. What would be so terrible if decisions were made with real consultation with a broader circle of ministers and the professionals under them? Instead, it seems, Netanyahu compartmentalizes, includes as few people as possible in the decision-making process, and then brings decisions to the cabinet to be rubber-stamped.

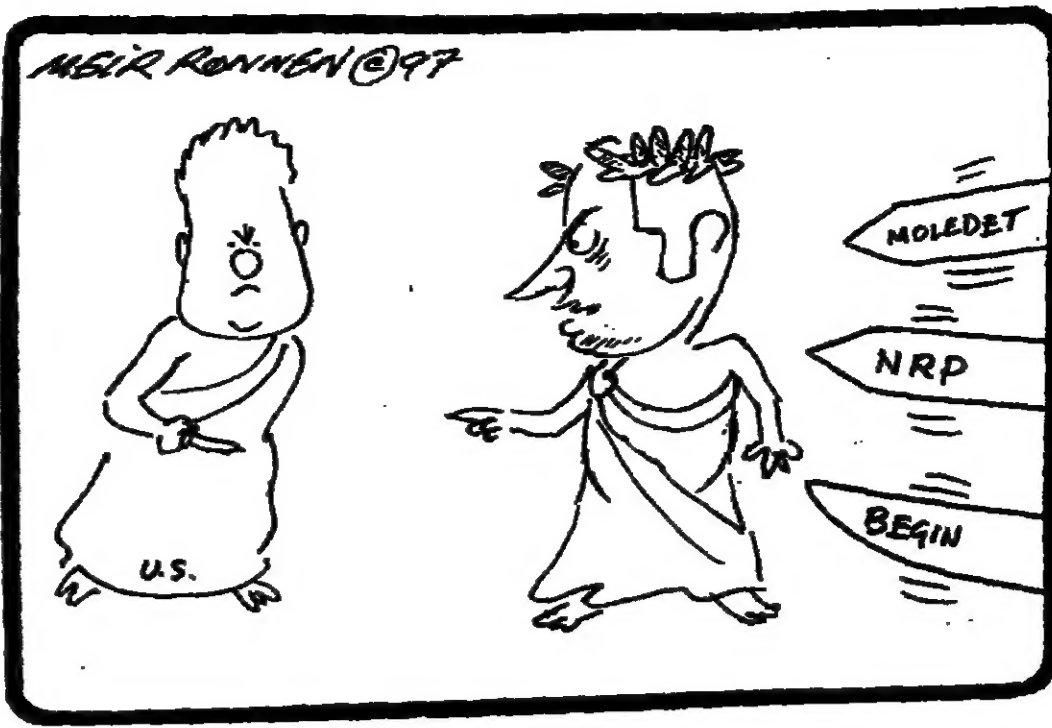
In the wake of the Lieberman departure, much ink is being spilled on whether he resigned on his own or was forced to resign, whether the move was timed to dodge an indictment reportedly recommended by police, and whether Lieberman will remain a force on the Israeli political scene. The important question, however, is not Lieberman's future, but whether Netanyahu will jettison the style of government that Lieberman represents.

If Lieberman clears the legal hurdles before him, he could become a force in the Likud or within the politically significant Russian community. But no matter how loyal Lieberman remains, and no matter how dedicated he is to settling scores, he will not make a dent in the now dormant "revolt" against Netanyahu unless the premier changes the way his government does business.

Netanyahu needs to use the Lieberman departure as an opportunity to bring in people who can help break the cycle of lurching from crisis to crisis, and repair relations within his own cabinet. This cannot be done by working through some "enemies list" as if the problem were some disloyal flack that is spreading through the Likud.

If Netanyahu brings in people who can help him introduce a sense of stability, confidence, and broader involvement in his decision-making process, the internal griping could well disappear. If Netanyahu is incapable of such a change, then no amount of Lieberman-style power politics will reverse the wave of dissatisfaction that has spread with each mistake made, each committee appointed, and each crisis weathered.

"You must be kidding..."



December pressure

Why was Benjamin Netanyahu asked to specify by the beginning of December the extent of the second redeployment in Judea and Samaria? And why did President Clinton invite Netanyahu to the White House specifically for December 4?

These two dates are a result of the approaching meeting of the congress of Islamic nations in Tehran on December 9. The Clinton administration wants to avoid extreme anti-American decisions at this conference, which it aims to do by creating a mini-crisis between Jerusalem and Washington, or alternatively squeezing concessions from Israel for which the US will get the credit.

Netanyahu's visit to the White House will provide an opportunity for the White House's Middle East experts to leak to the media that President Clinton censured the prime minister. This would help the Arab rulers known as "pro-Western" to take the anti-American sting out of the Tehran congress's resolution.

In fact, Clinton has already managed to offend Netanyahu by his conversation with Shimon Peres in which he slammed Netanyahu, but his aides assume that by the opening of the Tehran congress, these outspoken statements will have lost their strong impact. This is exactly why there is no reason for the prime minister to go out of his way to visit America within the next three weeks. It is doubtful that by then he will have managed to finish the package deal concerning the second redeployment – the second and final stage until the implementation of permanent status in Judea and Samaria.

What can Netanyahu promise Clinton, after the US president cast doubt on his trustworthiness – as Peres reported from Washington? Will the Palestinians really be satisfied with a total of 35-37% of the territory, taking all previous withdrawals together

MOSHE ZAK

(Gaza, the six towns and the Hebron agreement), after receiving the impression that Netanyahu is crumbling in the face of American pressure? And without Palestinian agreement, will the Americans go on blaming Israel for the lack of progress in the diplomatic process?

A meeting just before the Tehran conference will assure public censure of Netanyahu by the Americans. There are people in Washington who think that the US needs public Israeli-bashing to get safely through the Islamic

countries, and no week goes by without visits from foreign ministers from all over the world. The feeling of isolation is subjective, influenced mostly by UN resolutions, mostly proposed by the Arabs as part of their psychological warfare against us. They are no reflection of the courageous bilateral links existing between Israel and many countries of the world.

Nor should we accept the date suggested by the secretary of state as the last possible date for an Israeli-Palestinian agreement on the extent of the second redeployment and a settlement freeze (a freeze labeled as "avoiding unilateral steps liable to provoke the other side").

The beginning of December is a convenient date for Americans to combat anti-Americanism at the Tehran congress. But there is nothing holy about it. It was not a surprise that Arafat turned down Netanyahu's proposal for the size of the new deployment which will bring under his rule 35-37% of the territories. The greater the area that Arafat receives, the greater the temptation for him to announce immediately and unilaterally the establishment of a Palestinian state. Dr. Amnon Kapeliuk, who interviewed Arafat, told me that the leader of the Palestinian Authority had told him explicitly that whether Netanyahu wanted it or not, he would proclaim a Palestinian state in May 1999.

This readiness of the Palestinians to proclaim a state even without Israel's agreement obliges Israel to hold on to the territorial cards for the permanent-status negotiations. This is the correct criterion for judging any American proposal on the continuation of the diplomatic process. Redeployment maps should not be drawn up on the basis of the dates dictated by the Baghdad crisis or the Tehran congress.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

On the eve of the Islamic congress in Tehran, the Clinton administration is courting Arab states by rebukes to Israel

congress. But Israel doesn't have to assist those latent desires.

There is no urgent reason for the prime minister to go to Washington in order to turn the other cheek. Any meeting with Clinton should be held after the US learns its lesson from the pan-Arab position on the Iraq crisis and, in particular, after Israel has proved to the Palestinians that pressuring Israel through Arab countries does nothing to promote their own interests.

Israel has difficulties in freeing themselves from the mistaken impression that Israel is isolated in the international arena. Even if Netanyahu visits the White House, even if he does not meet Clinton within the next three weeks, the fact is that Israel isn't isolated at all. No week goes by without two or three agreements being signed with all kinds of

Mish-mash facades

HELEN SCHARY MOTRO

My Canadian uncle had a blanket term for the gaudiness of American decor: "Chicago Renaissance," he'd cackle, pointing to Corinthian columns smack in the middle of a Long Island split-level.

How my uncle would grin to see Petah Tikva Provincial and Art Deco a la Ahuva. There is surely more marble set into the new homes of my neighborhood than was once found in the entire mandate of Palestine.

Not too long ago, most Israeli washroom sinks had a long green rubber tube hanging crookedly from the faucet. They were supposed to direct the water, but they didn't work; the water sprayed all over your clothes anyway.

Today the sky is the limit, and even the sky sometimes seems too low. Poor and shabby has been replaced by bombastic and overdone.

When people began to install oversized sunken tubs, all I could think of was what kind of cleaning brush could possibly reach every corner. Today Jacuzzi's are de rigueur, and the state-of-the-art home comes with nothing less than a sleek wooden sauna and a miniature workout room. Nobody worth their salt is without a private pool – and an automatic robot to vacuum it.

Not to make the absurd suggestion that the average family actually soaks in its hot tub, shoots pool in its billiard room, or takes sips drawn from its own wine cellar – just that most would if they could.

Glitzy gimmicks are not limited to the enclaves of the Israeli Dun & Bradstreet 100. Nose around the homes of contractors in Ramat Gan, and you'll stumble over laser television screens and statues of naked nymphs frolicking on lily leaves. It has always been a standing joke that the richest house on the block was built by the vegetable seller-made-good, the fellow with the big wad of cash called half-affectionately by his neighbors: King Petros. Today the marriage of quick money and lack of zoning laws

The country qualifies as a veritable architectural Tower of Babel

has created such a hodge-podge of building styles that the country qualifies as a veritable architectural Tower of Babel. An average neighborhood resembles a fair of the future; everything imaginable is thrown into the pot. Houses recklessly combine all styles and all periods: classical columns rub elbows with baroque facades, Tudor roofs with French provincial floor tiles, Mediterranean patios with American roll-out windows.

Old neighborhoods continue some semblance of stylistic unity: Bauhaus in south Tel Aviv, Islamic arches in Jerusalem. Even the plain white box houses of old moshavim maintain a certain harmony of style, and look appealing amidst all the excess. But these modest homes are an endangered species; every day a bulldozer knocks down another to replace it with a ton of custom-designed concrete.

In a sort of perverse reaction, one finds oneself nostalgic for nonsense water canisters on apartment roofs, for the exposed wires dangling down the sides of buildings, for brown water stains discoloring the peeling beige paint.

The mish-mash of building styles is continued outdoors in the garden: cacti pop up next to papaya, and pines stand beside palm trees.

Olive trees are uprooted from ancient groves in Galilee, to be transplanted in the sandy soil of the coastal plain. Israeli gardens, like Israeli homes, are a botanical bouillabaisse.

Amidst the cornucopia of abundance one longs to see a single cypress tree rising majestically overhead.

If the modern Israeli metropolis is an esthetic free-for-all, then encroaching suburbia is even worse. As it greedily paves over the fertile soil and magnificent orchards of the old Israel, the eyesores it replaces them with would be tragic if they weren't so outrageously funny.

Attending a housewarming in a north Tel Aviv penthouse recently, my friend asked discreetly for the way to the bathroom.

"The loo?" shouted her ebullient hostess, glass of brut champagne in hand. "It's the first door down the corridor. Just turn left past the Henry Moore."

The writer is an attorney and freelance writer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FACTORY EDUCATION

Sir, – I applaud the reported intention of the Education Ministry to close down the Israeli Curriculum Center and give the schools the freedom to choose their own curriculum and set their own educational goals. This would go a long way toward increasing the responsiveness of the schools to the students they teach and their parents.

The teachers "unilaterally oppose" the move. All they care about are their jobs. True to form, they're out there fighting against

the best interests of their students, in order to maintain 200 part-time jobs in the Curriculum Center. Oozing syrupy concern for the poor, and passing themselves off as the noble protectors of the integrity of education, it is in fact they who have turned the schools into factories, and the high mission of teaching into drudgery.

RAHAV BAR RASHTI

Kiryat Arba.

THANK YOU, JUDY

Sir, – I think you might be interested in the following story. I had been suffering for months from pains in the soles of my feet. It was as if I were walking on hot sand. I had consulted two podiatrists and two dermatologists, but to no avail. In desperation, I took the liberty of phoning Judy Siegel, who listened sympathetically to my tale of woe. She suggested that I consult a neurologist, which I promptly did. He recommended a cream called Zostrix, to be taken with Tribenia, a vitamin B tablet.

I am delighted to say that as far as I can see – or rather feel – my soles are normal again. At least, I hope so. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Judy for her invaluable advice.

MOSHE POSNER

Tel Aviv.

INSULTED

Sir, – President Clinton is prepared to meet Shimon Peres but not Benjamin Netanyahu. Whether or not the American administration approves our choice, Prime Minister Netanyahu is the democratically elected head of the Israeli people.

As a citizen of Israel, I feel insulted.

L. SACKER

MARTUS GARB

Ra'anana.

Bat Yam.

EDITH DINAR

LIVNAT FOR PM

Sir, – I am thoroughly sick of the squabbling and backbiting that goes on in that enormous kindergarten commonly known as the Knesset. It is high time the principal (i.e. the prime minister), although not the Likud party, was dismissed.

In his stead, I should very much like to see someone who has shown all the desired traits in a kindergarten teacher, and also those of a sensible, serious leader. May I therefore strongly urge the appointment of Limor Livnat as the new leader of the Likud and the prime minister.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

Sir, – My wife is a multiple sclerosis patient confined to a wheelchair, and I read with great interest Allison Ofanasky's article "Obstacles at every turn" (November 3).

We, too, have been frustrated by many factors adversely affecting the day-to-day lives of handicapped families. We find, for instance, in many residential and to a lesser extent in public buildings, the lifts are too narrow for access by wheelchairs, that street crossings are either without sloping curbs, or that existing ones are often damaged or too narrow.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On November 26, 1937, *The Palestine Post* reported that three Jews were wounded, one of them seriously, when a crowded bus traveling from Neshet to Haifa was shot at near the Wadi Rushmeh Bridge.

The first death sentence imposed by the newly constituted Military Courts under the Defence Regulations was carried out when Sheikh Farhan Ahmed as-Sadi was executed in the Acre Prison.

50 years ago: On November 26, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that two months to the day after its formation the UN Ad-Hoc Committee on Palestine

approved by a vote of 25 to 13 with 17 abstentions the plan for the establishment of a Jewish and an Arab State in Palestine. Two delegates were absent. An Arab State alternative plan was defeated 29-12.

A "special drive" for the "security of the people" was established by Yishuv's Va'ad Leumi Mobilization Fund.

King Abdullah stated that his army, the Arab Legion, would stay in Palestine to defend the Arabs. He challenged the Arab Higher Executive which was trying to establish a Palestine Government in Exile.

25 years ago: On November

26, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Israel had cautioned governments abroad against the adoption of any extreme decisions at the UN General Assembly Middle East debate.

The largest maneuvers held by the IDF took place in southern Sinai.

Life was rapidly returning to normal in Merom Golan and other Golan kibbutzim hit by Syrian artillery.

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat had launched a sweeping shake-up of senior command posts in the armed forces following the discovery of a planned coup.

Alexander Zvielli

مكاتب التحرير

When home is no shelter

One out of every seven women in Israel has been physically abused by a husband or boyfriend. Among them are Israeli Arab women who face special obstacles when trying to escape a violent household, as
Allison Kaplan Sommer
discovered in Tira



While it is common for battered women to be reluctant to leave their violent spouses, in Arab society the prospect is particularly terrifying: The women risk alienation from their own family and community. (Nissim Shores)

Nasreen is a bright, educated woman in her thirties, full of energy, whose slim, jeans-clad figure belies the fact that she has five children. Her smile and the confident way in which she expresses herself seem utterly incompatible with the horrific tales of the severe beatings she endured from her husband for more than a decade.

"Here, feel this," she says, and guides one's hand to the base of her back to feel where her tailbone protrudes, after it was smashed during a beating.

Nasreen seems so feisty and full of spirit that it is impossible to picture her as she says she found herself frequently - curled on the floor, as her husband kicked her repeatedly.

Violence within the family is one of the most complex problems for law-enforcement agencies and social services to cope with, and within the Arab sector, it can be particularly tricky. Arda Achlam has been on the front lines of this battle since the founding of the Center for Peace in the Family, which is in Tira, an Israeli Arab town just north of Kfar Sava.

Achlam, who earned her B.A. in social work from Bar-Ilan University and works closely with her Jewish counterparts, says that while it is common for battered women to be reluctant to leave their violent spouses, in Arab society, the prospect is particularly terrifying. They fear not only losing their husbands, but alienation from

won't accept this kind of behavior - this is the main reason that brings them to a center like ours. For many of them it takes time. Many suffer for years, and what brings them for treatment is not their own welfare, but concern about damage to the children who witness the beatings. Their kids start to have nightmares, or start behaving violently themselves.

Given the women's frequent refusal to leave their spouses, the center's staff works as best as they can to try to improve the situation, while keeping the family intact.

"Within the Arab sector, there is a great deal of work with the extended families. Parents, in-laws, brothers and sisters are all called in to help with solving the problem."

The men Achlam has the most trouble with are the religious ones, who say that it is within their rights, as stated in the Koran, to hit their wives. In such cases, she sometimes calls on religious authorities to help her make her case.

IN 1995, after nine years of marriage and nine years of abuse - "he hit me the fourth day after we were married" - Nasreen finally filed a police complaint, and was referred to the center, where she met with a social worker weekly. The workers at the center kept a close eye on her. For about a year, the situation stabilized and the violence subsided.

Then, earlier this year, her husband erupted once more, and

'We are seeing a society in transition,' says Achlam. 'Arab women are now going out into the world... A husband who expects his wife to obey him the way that his mother obeyed his father can explode with frustration and violence.'

their own family and their community. And even if their choice is accepted in their community, divorce hardly represents freedom.

"Arab women tend to avoid divorce at any cost," says Achlam. "To be a divorced woman in Arab society is very difficult - you have to live under a microscope. There is still a stigma associated with it, and most divorcees live a very restricted life, are pressured to move back in with their parents, and are very limited on where they can go and what they can do unescorted."

THE CENTER for Peace in the Family is funded by the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry and the Tira Municipality. It is operated by the Women's League for Israel, which also supports it financially - often making up the shortfall when the cash-strapped municipality fails to contribute its share.

The center, set up in a simple building located a few doors away from Tira's City Hall, helps women who turn directly there for help, and deals with referrals that stream in from hospitals and police stations. While it does not have a battered women's shelter, it refers women to such facilities as needed.

"There was some suspicion when we opened our doors, as there is with every new social service that is offered. It takes a lot of time to develop understanding," Achlam says. "This is a problem that has always existed, and in more traditional circles, violence was considered justified to keep a wife in line."

"But today, Arab society is changing, and the Arab woman

Nasreen took her children to a shelter. Her husband was sent to a new facility in Ra'anana called Beit Noam, which works with battering men to try to change their behavior. After two weeks at Beit Noam, he returned home and has not hit his wife for nearly three months.

Achlam takes pride in the fact that her center has managed to put together an ongoing support group for battering men seeking help in changing their behavior. In Arab cities with larger populations, like Nazareth, they have not managed to do so.

Achlam says that in their hearts most of the men want to stop their own violence.

"They know it is not acceptable behavior and they don't want to keep doing it."

But when it comes to changing the men's behavior, "the problem is easier to cope with in the earlier stages of the marriage, and the best chance for a solution is when the woman seeks help at the first signs of violence."

LEILA, A young, slim, elegant woman dressed in a sweater and slacks, rocking the infant seat that holds her sleeping baby, her second child, sought help much earlier than Nasreen. She says that when she met her husband, "I saw that he seemed tightly wound, but had no idea that he would be violent."

After a two-year engagement, during which she completed her higher education, they were married.

"Right after the wedding, there was verbal violence. A lot of insults, a lot of cursing. Much of it was over the housework. He want-

ed the house to be 100 percent perfect all the time. And family problems - he didn't like it when I uttered any criticism of his family, especially his parents. And I was someone who was used to saying what I thought."

The violence stayed on the verbal level until about four months after the birth of their first child.

"He would blame me if anything was wrong with the baby - if he got an ear infection it was my fault because I didn't take care of him well. And it started to get physical - hair-pulling, pushing, that sort of thing. It was terrible, very insulting, completely humiliating and it broke any kind of trust or faith between us."

She immediately told her family and said that she wanted to go to the police. They convinced her not to, telling her that it would ruin their relationship permanently, so she chose to seek help from the social-service agencies instead.

Since she sought counseling for herself and her family, the violence has ceased. For the past eight months, "there has been no physical violence, but there hasn't been much communication between us, either. I'm not happy with my life."

Changing it, however, would be very complicated.

"Divorce is hard. Economically, I'm OK, I work. But in other ways I would suffer. My dream would be to live in an apartment alone with my children. But in our society it is impossible for me to live alone. I would have to move back with my parents and leave a great deal of my freedom behind."

ACHLAM SAYS that should Leila decide to stay with her husband, the center will offer them marriage counseling to try to rebuild their relationship.

Nasreen's relationship with her husband, however, sounds beyond repair. Even if they remain living in the same house, "I'm not sure if I love him or if I ever can."

Leila, Nasreen says that she could not have foreseen such behavior in the man whom she married when

she was 19 years old.

"There was no sign of it before. What's really irritating is that till today there is no external sign that this man is violent. He's so friendly, laughs and smiles outside the house. Everyone who knows him says, 'what a nice, sweet, wonderful guy.' The fact that nobody besides me really knows what he is like drives me crazy sometimes."

She says that he fails to come up with concrete reasons for hitting her.

"He makes excuses, such as the fact that I sometimes ask him where he is going when he leaves the house, he thinks I'm suspicious, that I'm jealous of other women. But the truth is he doesn't have a reason."

The main reason she remains is her children. She is certain that if it

blind wants respect, he has to give respect to his wife and children."

According to the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women, in the 12 months from October 1996, in the non-Jewish sector there were 2,871 police complaints filed regarding family violence, among the total of 22,728 such complaints, a number which is low relative to the percentage of Arabs in the Israeli population.

But numbers can be deceiving, warn the professionals. First, says Ronit Lev-Ari, director of Na'amat's prevention of family violence department, Arab women are far more hesitant to bring the police to their homes, fearing the reaction of their families and the community.

Second, she says, battered Arab women who reach out for help are usually in need of greater sup-

'Divorce [would be] hard,' says Leila, who sought counseling after suffering abuse. 'Economically, I'm OK, I work. But in other ways I would suffer. In our society it is impossible for me to live alone. I would have to move back with my parents and leave a great deal of my freedom behind.'

port services than their Jewish counterparts.

"The real problem we have right now is shelter space for Arab women," she says. "We take Arab women in the shelters in greater Tel Aviv, but the only shelter specifically for Arabs is in the North. They need their own facilities because of language, but largely because of culture - they need counseling that can understand and take into account their special problems with their communities."

She says that an Arab woman who has made the decision to leave, often not only faces losing her husband, but her community and even her own family may turn against her, leaving her utterly isolated.

"Some truly have no place to go and need to stay in shelters for months, sometimes up to a year, far longer than their Jewish counterparts, who usually can find some place to go. The Arab women are sometimes more frightened of their own family than they are of their husband."

Often men accuse their wives of infidelity once the women insist on divorce, or it is offered as an excuse for the beatings, Lev-Ari explains. This can cause another problem, because women whose families decide that they have - or even may have - married the family honor by being unfaithful, may be in mortal danger. Such women often have to be helped to leave the country.

A portrait of violence

- Between 1990 and 1996, 91 women were killed here by their husbands or boyfriends.
 - One in every seven women in Israel - an estimated 200,000 women - has at one time suffered physical abuse by her husband or boyfriend.
 - Approximately 74 percent of all domestic complaints are filed by women against their husbands or boyfriends, who are said to have beaten them or their children.
 - Each year for the past several years, an average of 18,000 police complaints are filed regarding domestic violence. There is one such complaint approximately every half hour.
 - Only one in 10 incidents of violence against women is actually reported to the police, bringing the total estimated number of incidents, to 150,000-200,000 annually.
 - In the first four months of 1997, there were 5,674 police complaints filed, an average of 1,420 per month. In the month of June 1997, 3,304 women complained to the police of beatings by their partners and 150 women were treated for their injuries at hospital-emergency rooms.
 - There are indications this year that more alleged wife- or girlfriend-beaters are being charged. In January-February of 1997, 1,463 indictments were filed, compared with only 881 during the same period last year.
- Source: Na'amat



Peanuts round the campfire



By JUDY SIEGEL ITZKOVICH

Sipurei Snoopy Ve'havurata Misaviv Lam'dura (Campfire Stories), a CD-ROM in Hebrew, translated by Hed Artzi Multimedia from the original English-language disk by Virgin Sound and Vision, for children aged four to eight, NIS 149

Rating: four stars out of five

Snoopy is not merely a beloved, talented but outrageous dog, the invention of cartoonist Charles Schulz. He can also teach English, as we saw in Virgin/Hed Artzi's previous disk, *Snoopy Ve'Charlie Brown Kef Lesukah Be'Anglit*. Now he and his Peanut friends teach early school-age pupils how to write letters about their experiences in the great outdoors.

Charlie, the schlemazel, and his pals Peppermint Patty, Linus, and Lucy, sit around a campfire roasting marshmallows. The user chooses each character, in turn, to tell a story, based on which a letter to another Peanut character - Franklin, Pigpen, Marcy, Schroeder or Eudora - is composed to tell a different story.

Each story begins with eight gags on the screen when an object is clicked (such as Snoopy's ears twirling like a helicopter to make him hover).

In the second screen, one is presented with a game. These include clicking in any of four directions to lead Charlie's paper boat through an obstacle course of wood, crocodiles and sharks; clicking on specific types of insects speeding across the screen (which is quite difficult); choosing an appropriate meal of salad, sandwich and ice cream; and clicking on a rod at the right time to catch fish and evade floating garbage.

In the third screen, the storyteller asks Snoopy, who is pecking away at a laptop computer, to show the prepared text of the story, whose theme relates to the game. Line after line of Hebrew text is shown. One can select any of three levels to produce an easier or more complicated story.

Hed Artzi, which offers a good oral translation optionally read out to the user, should have chosen a better Hebrew font instead of the cramped one available. The user can then customize the letter, clicking pictures to vary the name of the recipient, the body of the story, and the salutation. Hed Artzi goofed by allowing the user to type his or her name in only in English; when it appears with that of the storyteller's at the end of the letter, it shows up in English followed by the Peanut character's Hebrew one and the letter *vev* ("and").

There is quite a bit of humor. When Linus says that one day he'll be prime minister, Lucy contemplates his "going into the Knesset with your security blanket." When a fishing rod picks up a set up false teeth from the lake, Charlie suggests that it "might be useful to Grandma."

While the animation is captivating and the music catchy, the program could really have excelled by allowing children to type in their own open-ended Hebrew text instead of clicking pictures

for ready-made variations. This, of course, might have been more complicated, and the text couldn't be read out, but it would have reduced the risk of repetition and stimulated the imagination even more.

Who Stole Hanukkah? The Great Interactive Mystery Game, a CD-ROM for PC or Mac in Hebrew, English, Russian, French and Spanish, by JeMM Productions (www.jemm.co.il or POB 53392 Jerusalem 91532 or phone 02-6796122) for the whole family, NIS 79 from The Jerusalem Post book department.

Rating: four-and-a-half stars out of five

JeMM Productions has brought together a talented bunch of people to provide Jewish entertainment, especially relating to the holidays.

Their previous disk, *The Interactive Hagadah* - which was very favorably reviewed in this column and which I would prefer if I could have only one - presented the entire text of the Passover Hagadah, plus much additional educational material presented in a fun way with Ronni Oren's animated plasticine figures.

This disk uses plasticine characters interspersed with cartoon drawings to tell about Hanukkah. But it doesn't have the same kind of rich, melody-laden, well-known text to tell the story.

Because a Hanukkah "Hagadah" is not available, the developers had to think of another way to teach the subject. They chose a fictional whodunit in which you help Neri the detective identify the character, who has stolen the prize collector's item from the study of Prof. Croak (Prof. Yarkoni in the Hebrew version, a frog who looks like an overfed Kermit). The missing object is the same miraculous jar of oil found by the Maccabees when they defeated the Syrian-Greeks in Hasmonean times.

The suspects are plasticine characters: Narcisso the Greek statue; Crystal the fortune teller; the ever-hungry Latke Troll; Bomba the warrior elephant; Shlemiel the Temple repairman; Made-moiselle Menorah; Ora Star, lead singer of the Candle Sisters; and the elusive Groucho Cat.

The object of the game is to collect golden keys by successfully meeting challenges and entering different rooms in the professor's house to gather clues.

One also has at the tip of one's fingers an on-line database with information about history (including Hellenism, Antiochus, the revolt, battles, the Temple, miracles and Hanukkah today), sources and "how to" celebrate the holiday (with blessings, spinning tops and latkes - but not Israeli-style *suganiyot*).

Not all users will have the patience to delve into the database for clues on finding the keys, but those who do will get a much more in-depth appreciation of the holiday. The player travels back in time to witness the main scenes of the Hanukkah story, while taking time out to play Hebrew hangman and learn holiday songs.

The very low introductory price - made possible by a grant from the Jewish Agency's Joint Program Fund for "harnessing modern technology in pursuit of Jewish continuity" - makes it a real bargain.

While Diaspora children who have had little Jewish education will learn from the disk that Hanukkah is more than a "Jewish Christmas," it will also teach, entertain and interest Israeli kids who take Hanukkah for granted.

Ruth Mason's Parenting column will return next week.

The country qualifies as a veritable architectural Tivoli of Babel

Corner



By Batseva Mink
and David Brauner

Growing herbs – any thyme, any place

Plants are small chemical factories. Many manufacture natural drugs and fragrances to protect themselves against disease and attack. The chemicals and fragrances of herbs in particular have well-known uses in medicine as poultices and poisons, in cooking as flavor-enhancers, in cosmetics as perfumes, and in cleansers and our immediate environment as insect repellents and home fresheners. Herbs also have a long history in magic, mysticism and religion. Apotrochics (love potions), aromatics worn against evil spirits (such as vampires) or used in religious ceremonies (e.g., in the *havdala* ritual) are all part of the love and lore of herbs.

An undeniable renewal of interest in herbs is indicated by the explosion of books and products on the market. Vast new health, cosmetic and culinary industries are thriving today on buzz words like "natural" and "all-vegetable." Herbalism is also teaching farmers to control pests in organically grown produce. As a result of the growing interest in herbal remedies, modern medicine and science are researching the specific chemical properties of plants successfully used in folk medicines or known in the past. For example, the spring plant "scurvy grass" (*Cochlearia officinalis*) was formerly used to heal bleeding gums developing in late winter from lack of fresh fruits and vegetables. Today, studies have found *cochlearia* to contain a high concentration of vitamin C, the lack of which caused scurvy.

Mankind long ago discovered that the internal and external use of herbs benefits our lives. So our ancestors began to cultivate these wonderful gifts of the plant kingdom. Gardeners who grow herbs today, even casually in a pot or jar, are continuing a long and great tradition. Before ornamental gardens started to become popular in the 16th century, the only plants that were grown in the European world were patches of herbs, mainly for medicinal purposes. Today, no one would describe the majority of low-growing herbs as first-class ornamental plants. So if you are going to grow herbs outdoors, it is traditional to set them out in formal designs or patterns.

The simplest design imitates the rim and spokes of a wheel. The herbs grow in triangles in between aisles (spokes). The central hub of the wheel can be emphasized by, perhaps, a clipped bay tree or statuary. Alternatively, you can plant small squares or rectangles of herbs. Place stones or old tiles between each patch to mark them off.

For the indoor gardener, growing herbs is a natural for pots and window boxes. They are easy to raise and add greenery, fresh scent and charm to any well-lit interior. And, of course, they are handy for clipping when you need them in salads or herbal tea.

To maintain fresh supplies, it's best to grow two plants of each kind. Use one plant for cutting,



Herbs can be grown in pots on a kitchen window-sill for easy access



while the other is "resting" and putting out new leaves. Here are a few common, easy-to-grow herbs, some natives of our area.

Thyme (Lat. *Thymus vulgaris*; Heb. *korari*). One of the most basic herbs, thyme is a pungently aromatic low-growing, wiry-stemmed, small-leaved perennial. It grows best in a sunny position in any well-drained soil. This herb

can be propagated by division, layering, from cuttings or from seed. Replace the plants after 3-4 years as they become thin and straggly. Pick the shoots at any time. Fresh-picked thyme is best and, used in moderation, enhances almost any main dish, sauce, soup or salad. Thyme has a calming effect when drunk as a tea. It may also be dried or frozen.

Tarragon (Lat. *Artemisia dracunculus*; Heb. *la'ana drakonit*). Tarragon's long leaves are highly aromatic and have a slight licorice flavor. This perennial needs full sun and well-drained soil. If it is to survive a hard winter, plant tarragon in a sheltered position. It can be propagated by plant division, which should be done in spring. Use tarragon sparingly for mak-

ing tarragon vinegar or when adding flavor to salads, vegetables, meat, fish, as well as omelettes and tartar sauce. As tea, it stimulates appetite and is a natural breath freshener.

Rocket (Lat. *Eruca vesicaria*; Heb. *gargir* or *ben-hardal*). An annual also known as aragula, Italian cress and Roman rocket (because of its popularity in Roman times), rocket has spicy leaves best used when young.

Buy the plants in spring or sow in rows in the ground or in window boxes. Sow seeds in successive 2-3 week intervals until mid-summer to constantly produce young leaves. Rocket needs some shade. Cut the leaves as soon as they reach a good size, and pick evenly to encourage growth.

Rocket adds a hot, spicy flavor to green salads, rice salads and sandwiches. The flowers also make a spicy addition.

Parsley (Lat. *Petroselinum crispum*; Heb. *petrosilia*, *karpas*). Parsley is perhaps the herb plant most associated with the kitchen. There are several species. The flat-leaved variety is a short-lived perennial, best grown every year in September as an annual. The seeds germinate slowly, taking about three weeks, unless soaked overnight in water before planting to help them along. Thin seedlings to 18 cm. apart. Parsley likes a moist, rich soil in a full or half sunny position.

As a garnish, parsley adds special flavor to salads, soups and sauces. A rich source of vitamins (A, B and especially C), it is very healthy. Chewing parsley cleans the mouth and sweetens the breath.

Chervil (Lat. *Anthriscus cerefolium*; Heb. *seyaglit mavrika*). Like parsley in appearance and culinary use, chervil is slightly anise-flavored. Grown as an annual, the seeds should be sown at intervals from March onwards to provide a succession of young plants. Space them 20 cm. apart and pinch off the flowers as they appear, to promote bushiness. The seeds remain viable for only about a year and should be sown as soon as they are ripe.

Today used chiefly as a salad herb, chervil was once believed to be a remedy for plague.

Chives (Lat. *Allium schoenoprasum*; Heb. *trif*). Chives are a delicately onion-flavored plant with hollow, grasslike leaves. This herb grows rapidly in dense clumps that need to be propagated by dividing them every few years. As perennials, they die in winter and reappear in early summer. Chives thrive in full or half sun in well-drained soil. They also do well in window boxes.

Only the leaves are used chopped into salads, eggs and soups for a fresh taste of onion. Chives act as a tonic and are medicinally proven to help remedy anaemia and reduce cholesterol.

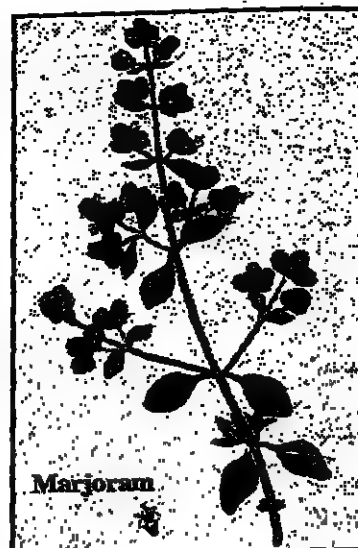
Pot marjoram (Lat. *Origanum onites*; Heb. *mavran*). A native of Europe and Asia, pot marjoram has small, pleasantly aromatic grayish-green leaves.

Marjoram is a hardy perennial growing up to 60 cm. tall and producing dainty pink or white flowers in summer. Buy the plants or make cuttings in spring or summer, or grow from seeds in early spring. Pot marjoram does best in well-drained soil and full sun. Water well in dry spells and cut back after flowering.

As a condiment, marjoram is a quintessential ingredient in Italian cooking, sprinkled fresh on pizza or in tomato sauces. The dried leaves in cloth bags keep closets fresh-smelling, and as a hot tea it helps to relieve colds, congestion and indigestion.

Mint (Lat. *Mentha piperita*; Heb. *nana*). By far the most well known of the herbs for its refreshing taste and scent, mint is used as an additive in vast range of products from chewing gum to deodorant. A perennial of many species, mint spreads rapidly and needs to be restricted by being planted within a bottomless bucket sunk in the ground. Unlike most other herbs, mint prefers rich, moist soil. Give it a good dressing of compost before growth commences in spring. Because it tends to be a "soil exhauster," remove the clumps after 3-4 years and replant them in fresh ground. Pinch out the growth points of young plants to make them bush out. In addition to its fame as a healthy, refreshing tea and popular ingredient in many recipes, mint is said to repel insects if it is crushed along window ledges.

Sage (Lat. *Salvia officinalis*; Heb. *marva*). An evergreen shrub with aromatic gray-green leaves, sage is native to the Mediterranean basin, including Israel. Sage needs full sun and well-drained soil. A trim in early spring and the removal of flowers prevents "leginess" and promotes leaf growth. It makes a good low border hedge. Renew the plant every 3-4 years as



it becomes woody. Springly used, sage adds pungency to beverages and dishes. It helps heal mouth sores and, rubbed directly on the skin, it repels mosquitoes. Also, sage oil is said to fight hair loss when rubbed into the scalp daily.

Basil (Lat. *Ocimum basilicum*; Heb. *basilicum* or *reihan*). Basil comes in at least 13 varieties, with flavors ranging from aniseed to cinnamon to the aromatic sweet basil favored in cookery. Buy pot-grown plants in late spring/early summer, or sow seeds in pots for later transplanting. Basil grows well in containers in full sun, but take care not to overwater. Pinch out the growing tips for bushy growth.

Basil is particularly good in tomato sauces with olive oil. A warm tea of basil averts nausea and helps settle nervous tension.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batseva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morris@eshur.cc.biu.ac.il

Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Keeping wild animals as pets is not too popular in Israel, mainly because of stringent animal protection laws that largely prohibit keeping a wild animal without a special license. But in some countries, such as the United States, there are quite a lot of wild animal pets, and some of them find their way to Israel.

The following letter is from a teenage girl in Tel Aviv who brought her wild pets with her when she returned from a stay in the US. In this case, the pets are ferrets, a domesticated breed of the wild polecat.

"When I came home," she writes, "I brought my two tame ferrets with me. I had to get an import permit, which they would not grant me unless I had the female spayed and the male neutered. I had really wanted to breed them. I do not understand why they have passed such a cruel law. I would also like to know if there are any veterinarians who have experience with ferrets."

The ferrets this teenager brought from the US are a local North American variety that is not found in Israel. Since ferrets breed prolifically and sometimes escape and become feral – that is, live free in the wild – the rationale

The merits of ferrets

for the spaying and the neutering is clear. There are two members of the greater weasel family in Israel – the marbled polecat, found mostly in the Galilee and the inland valleys, and the beech marten, found in the Galilee and around Jerusalem. Both are fairly rare, so there is good reason to fear that the introduction, however accidental, of a competing member of the weasel group might bring about the extinction of these two native species. Therefore, the law is not meant to be cruel but to protect our unique indigenous wildlife.

I can understand this girl's attachment to her ferrets, though, and the desire to breed them. Ferrets are simply delightful pets. They are beautiful, clever and, if raised and handled properly, very tame and affectionate. Since keeping either native of this family is illegal without a license from the Israel Nature Reserves Authority, a number of people have brought tame ferrets back to Israel. Some have been imported and sold in pet shops, usually at very high prices. In all cases that I know of, the ferrets have been spayed or neutered.

Certainly all European- and American-trained veterinarians have had some experience with ferrets, as have those at the major zoos. Since the care of ferrets is similar to that of cats, I would assume that any veterinarian who deals largely with cats would be



Beautiful and clever, ferrets make delightful pets

able to handle ferret problems.

I do not have any special comments regarding ferret care except to warn that meat which has been made kosher – i.e.,

soaked with salt before packing – is definitely not good for them. It is too high in sodium, which can cause kidney problems. It's best to stick with fresh chicken or

beef and to fish, which while not their natural food, is quite acceptable. One can also purchase frozen mice at the larger pet stores.

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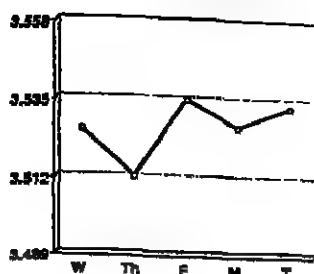
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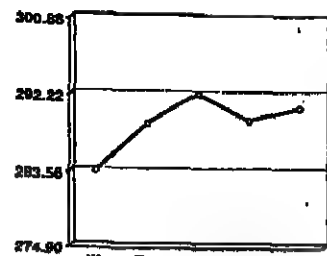
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in brief

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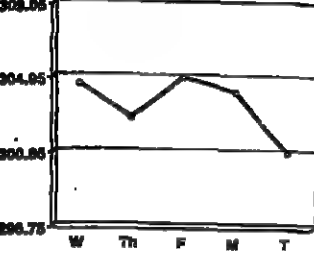


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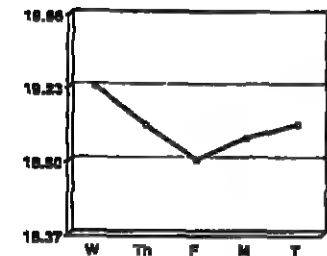
GOLD

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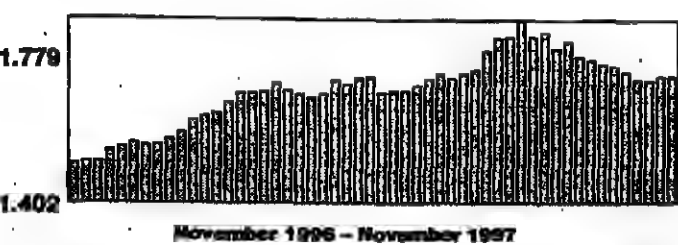


OIL

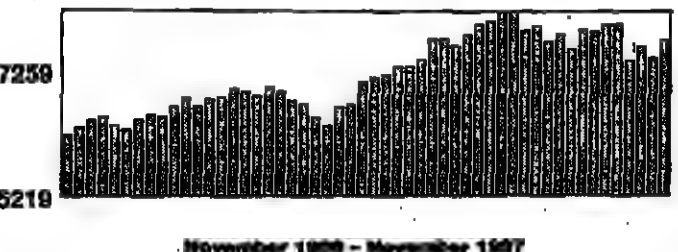
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



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Sept-Oct tourist overnights down 14%

Tourist overnights fell 14 percent in the September-October period, compared with the same months last year, according to the Hotels Association. The decline was by 20% in Jerusalem, 15% in Eilat and the Dead Sea, and 9% in Tel Aviv.

Altogether, there were 1.17 million tourist overnights at hotels. The statistics are given for two months together in order to neutralize the effect of the High Holy Days, which this year fell in October, but in 1996 occurred in September.

In contrast to the trough in incoming tourism, the growth trend in internal tourism continued over the holiday period. There were 1.47 million overnights by Israelis, 20% up in comparison with the corresponding period last year.

The most positive trends in Israeli overnights were at the Dead Sea, up 79%, following considerable expansion in the number of hotel rooms in the area; at Eilat, up 12%; Jerusalem, up 15%; and Tel Aviv, up 12%.

Globes

Tadiran Scopus gets a \$1m. order

Tadiran Scopus said yesterday that it has signed a contract with Pramer Argentina to supply a large digital transmission system worth \$1 million.

The company said that the contract was in addition to a previously signed order in which Tadiran will supply Pramer with 10 satellite gathering units.

Tadiran Scopus develops, manufactures and markets a full line of digital compression equipment and systems. In a statement, Ovadia Choen, the company's vice president for marketing, said that "this is a major contract for Tadiran Scopus and a recognition of the excellence of our products and definitely positions us as a major force in the growing satellite transmission business."

Dan Gerstenfeld

Neeman: Unemployment is number-one national problem

July-September industrial production increases 6%

By DAVID HARRIS

Unemployment is the major problem facing the Israeli economy today, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman declared yesterday.

Speaking to members of the Knesset social caucus, Neeman said increasing the state budget is the last thing that should be done, and that fiscal prudence will eventually generate job opportunities.

"Unemployment is the number one problem in Israel today," said

the minister. "To achieve a solution there must be a reduction in government expenditure, to allow the private sector to create work places."

Neeman told the MKs he refuses point blank to impose any tax on employers, the result of which is even higher unemployment.

"I won't be a part of that," he said.

Labor and Social Affairs Ministry senior planning economist Benny Fefferman yesterday

predicted unemployment will reach an average 8.5% next year. On Monday the Central Bureau of Statistics announced third-quarter unemployment was 8.1%, the highest rate in three-and-a-half years.

In Fefferman's opinion, the jobless total will hover around the 8.2% mark in the first few months of next year and then begin rise once again.

Former finance minister Avraham Shohat (Labor) yesterday accused the government of

causing higher unemployment by "destroying the peace process," and by pursuing the tight monetary policy of the central bank.

"A continuance of this Bank of Israel policy will cause untold damage to the economy and to Israeli society," added Shohat.

Meanwhile, industrial production, excluding diamonds, grew at an annual rate of 6% in the third quarter, according to data published yesterday by the CBS. The figures show little change from the

sector's performance in the second quarter, but are up on the 3% growth rate between January and March.

The statistical information also points to an annual 3% increase in the total number of hours worked during the third quarter. This follows a 2.5% rise in the second quarter and 1% in the first three months of the year. During the first nine months there was no change in the number of industrial employees.

Panel: Cap bank handling of funds

By DAN GERSTENFELD,
DAVID HARRIS and news agencies

A Knesset subcommittee on insurance yesterday asked the government to amend the Provident Funds bill so as to establish new rules regarding the role of banks.

There was cross-party support for the proposal from subcommittee chairman Michael Kleiner (Gesher), and it is understood from government sources that the scheme has the backing of Supervisor of Banks Zeev Abeles, Supervisor of Insurance Doron Shorer and Antitrust Authority Director General David Tadmor.

Kleiner said that while ownership and management of the funds should be left to the banks, the funds should be required to establish ways of depositing and investing members' capital through inter-bank tenders, so as to increase competition, Kleiner said.

There are foreign banks that have expressed interest in managing funds, if they were taken out of the hands of domestic banks, said economist Avi Ben-Bassat.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said this week that it was wrong for provident funds to be held by the banks. He urged Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to attend to the issue immediately after the budget passes.

Most provident funds are held by the big banks. In the past the banks have been accused of not doing enough to maintain a separation between fund activities and bank operations. A key argument has been that most funds tend to invest through their parent banks without searching for cheaper alternatives.

In addition, the investment committees of the big mutual funds are usually controlled by the banks and most committee members are bank executives.

Among the proposals from Tadmor's office are the following:

- Reducing the management fee that bank provident funds charge members.
- Banning the execution of deals by provident funds with their parent banks.
- Splitting funds up into smaller funds.
- Completing the detachment of provident funds from the banks.



Celebrating good work

Customs and VAF Authority-director Motti Ayalon (second from left) and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman (third from left) speak with authority employees at a ceremony in Jerusalem yesterday that honored outstanding workers.

(Ronit Ne'eman)

Clal's third-quarter profits surge to NIS 25.1m

Clal Israel, the country's second largest conglomerate, reported yesterday that net earnings rose sharply in the third-quarter to NIS 25.1 million, from NIS 1.7m. a year ago.

In the first nine months of the year net earnings rose 21.2%, to NIS 171.8m, from NIS 141.7m. a year ago.

The First International Bank is the first to publish its results among the five large Israeli banks and its earnings reports usually indicate what can be expected from the others.

The bank said that earnings from financing operations, before provision for doubtful debts, rose 10.3% in the first nine months, to NIS 70.3m, compared with NIS 57.9m. at the same period last year.

The bank, which is controlled by the Safra family of Brazil, said the increase mainly resulted from an 18% growth in the volume of financing activity, offsetting the effect of the erosion in the aggregate financial margin.

Operating and other income was NIS 395.1m, compared with NIS 345.1m. in the same period last year. The bank said that the increase largely derived from the growth in income from securities activity resulting from the rise in trading turnover

and prices in the capital market. In addition, the bank said that a notable increase was recorded in commission income from foreign currency and credit card activity.

The provision for doubtful debts amounted to NIS 55.5m, in the first nine months versus NIS 12.2m. in the same period last year.

Total assets on September 30 amounted to NIS 38.1b, against NIS 30.5b. a year earlier. Credit to the public rose 11.7%, to NIS 24.4b. from NIS 22b. at the end of 1996.

Blue Square reported yesterday

that net income in the third-quarter fell to NIS 28.9m., from NIS 30.1m. a year ago. During the first nine months of the year, net income rose slightly to NIS 79.6m., from NIS 79.4m. in the same period in 1996.

The sales of the supermarket chain rose 13.9%, to NIS 1.32b., from NIS 1.16b. at the equivalent period in 1996. In the first nine months sales rose slightly, to NIS 3.6b. compared with NIS 3.3b. a year ago.

Operating income climbed 11.5% in the last quarter, to NIS 55.7m., from NIS 50m. at the third-quarter last year.

In a statement, the company said that in the first nine months of the year it had opened 20 new branches, for a total of 141.

Zim Israel Navigation Company said yesterday that it ended the third quarter with a loss of \$8m., compared with loss of \$6.3m. a year ago.

RESULTS

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi ready to rid itself of bad loans

TOKYO - Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., the world's biggest bank, said yesterday it plunged 913.2 billion yen (\$7.18 billion) into the red during the half-year ended September 30 to wipe its books of 1.1 trillion yen in bad loans.

Analysts said it's the first Japanese bank to practically rid itself of bad loans, which piled up this decade with the collapse of the country's real estate market.

The half-year net loss was more than Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi forecast in September, when it rocked the banking industry by announcing it would build up its

reserves to cover more than 100 percent of its bad loans.

That was to satisfy new government rules, which take effect next April, making banks take a harder look at their balance sheets and write off all the loans they think could go bad.

The bank's announcement helped ignite a write-off frenzy that resulted in 13 of the country's 19 biggest lenders saying they would also go into the red in the half or full year to dispose of bad loans.

"Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi definitely sparked a trend," said Elizabeth Daniels, executive director at Morgan Stanley Japan Ltd. "They raised the bar, so everyone else had to fall in line to a certain extent."

Of the nine money-center banks in recent days, only Tokai Bank Ltd. said it would stay out of the red this year. Japanese banks are struggling to clear what the government estimates is 27.9 trillion yen in bad loans from their books. That will put them in a better position to cope with financial deregulation measures that will heighten competition between banks, brokers and insurers during the next few years.

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi said it had 1.051 trillion yen worth of bad loans as of September 30.

Bad loans are those on which interest payments have been lowered below Japan's 0.5 percent discount rate, loans on which no interest payments have been made for more than six months and those made to bankrupt companies.

The bank also said it had 249 billion yen in "assistance loans" to companies for which it is providing financial assistance. It said it was spending 201.1 billion yen to help its affiliate Nippon Trust Bank Ltd., the smallest of Japan's seven trust banks.

Nippon Trust said yesterday it had a 202.6 billion yen current loss in the half-year to write off bad loans, leaving it with a negative capital balance. The trust bank said it expected to recover in the full year with the help of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi. Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi said it expected a current loss of 730 billion yen and a net loss of 750 billion yen in the full year. Profits from its core business - or operating profits - were in line with expectations, the bank said. Tokyo-Mitsubishi had 226.8 billion yen in operating profits for the half-year, and it forecast 470 billion yen in operating profits for the full year ending March 31, 1998.

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi shares fell 90 yen to 1,780. (Bloomberg)

Yamaichi Securities copes with customers' withdrawal demands

TOKYO - At the Yamaichi Securities Co. Ohtemachi branch in downtown Tokyo, 80 customers lined up outside this afternoon while twice as many inside tried to get back their stocks, bonds and cash. The branch closed three hours early after saying the orders had overwhelmed its computer. Employees handed out printed forms customers could fill out so the processing could continue by hand.

"I started an account with Yamaichi because I felt safe with such a well-known name," said Yuko Fuse, a clerical worker in a trading company nearby who bought into a mutual fund three years ago. "It just never occurred to me that such a big name, a company with such a long history, could go under."

Yamaichi ended 100 years of history yesterday when it said it would close, dogged by years of losses, a scandal over paying blackmail to a gangster and hiding \$2.6 billion in losses.

It was the same story around Tokyo as customers lined up to get their \$188 billion worth of stocks, bonds and money back.



Customers line-up outside Yamaichi Securities Co., yesterday. (AP)

shares in 700 companies being dumped, traders said.

The benchmark stock index fell 5 percent as investors worried about the health of other brokerages, also tainted by scandal, and banks that have piled up at least a quarter of a trillion dollars' worth of bad loans.

"At this point, we're unable to even guess how many cancellations we'll receive today, or how many such orders have come in up to now," said Hiroshi Enda, a senior equity fund manager at Yamaichi Investment Trust, a unit of Yamaichi.

Calls to Yamaichi's head office

went unanswered. Japan made good its promise to protect Yamaichi customers as the Bank of Japan today lent the brokerage \$6.2 billion. The central bank and the brokerage insist its assets outweigh its liabilities and the bank will get its money back.

Returning all customers' assets is important to the government in order to prevent further erosion of trust in the financial system. It is also trying to get Japan's prodigious savers to move their money from low-yielding - often below 5% - savings accounts into stocks.

It's worried about how it will provide for Japan's rapidly aging

population. The line of customers at Yamaichi's Ohtemachi branch waiting to cancel their accounts or get back cash from margin accounts stretched 30 yards inside the mall where the branch is housed.

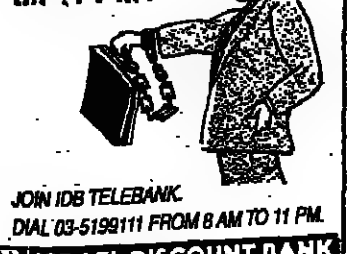
A security guard said the traffic was "many times" more than usual. Yamaichi, Japan's fourth-largest brokerage, had 6.5% of the trading on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the world's second-largest. While that share has slipped to 6% because of the gangster scandal, it still represents billions of dollars' worth of stocks bought for customers.

Other big brokers like Nomura Securities Co., which are good at selling stocks to small investors, are likely to pick up much of the business. That's because many small Japanese brokerages are ailing and foreign brokers deal mostly with big institutional customers.

Nomura and the others will be going after people like Miki Tanabe, who also works at the trading company nearby and has a mutual fund account at Yamaichi. They may have a hard time getting her to trust them more than a bank or the savings account the Japanese post office offers.

(Bloomberg)

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THE BUSINESS SCENE

By GILLER TAY CASHMAN



Four hundred and five New England College graduates of business management and medical and scientific services combined at the Dan Panorama Convention Center in Tel Aviv to receive their diplomas. On hand were Health Minister Yehoshua Mitzna (right) and former managing director of Danpan, Yehoshua Mitzna (left), who together with Prof. Shoshana Ben-David runs the educational facility that has been operating for four years on the campus of the Israel College.

Zohar Zisapel, founder and chairman of privately held RAD Data Communications, has announced the appointment of Eranit Wachtel as president and CEO of the Israel-based manufacturer of access product solutions for carriers and corporate networks. Wachtel, a 13-year veteran of the company, had served previously as vice president of sales and marketing. Zisapel had occupied the chief executive position since the company's founding in 1981. He will continue to lead the company as chairman of the board and will also assume new duties as RAD's chief strategy officer.

Lawyer Miki Adar has been appointed general manager of Delicat, the first Tel Aviv chain of delis. The nine-year prior to her new appointment, Adar served as product development manager at Burger Ranch.

Dorek General Manager Dr. Arvi Ovedia has announced the appointment of Jacob Rauter as head of the company's Medical Division. Rauter, a veteran Delicat employee, who most recently served as deputy head of the personnel division. He has an MA in marketing from Bar-Ilan University.

Dr. Orna Oshri has been appointed deputy manager of

the Assuta Hospital. A specialist in internal medicine, Oshri has served for the past 10 years as the hospital's chief physician, and head of its Check-Up Institute. She is currently completing a second degree in health-systems management.

Amnon Madar, managing director of the Radios, Moriah hotel chain, has joined the Visa Credit Card of Israel board of directors. One of the founders of Radios, Madar helped to pioneer the credit-card system in Israel and was active in the establishment of Europay-Eurocard International.

Amor Managing Director Uri Bernstein is switching from industry to education. He has accepted an offer to teach literature at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Well known for his prose and poetry, Bernstein, the son of Amor founder Naim Bernstein, has served as the company's managing director for over 30 years. His imminent retirement will afford him the time to teach. He is not completely cutting his ties with Amor, however, and in all likelihood will be nominated the chairman of its board.

Adrian Gila Kaganer has been awarded the prestigious 1997 achievement prize of the Women's International Forum. The prize has been given to her in recognition of her work as an actress, writer and director, as well as her various humanitarian endeavors.

Gideon Tzur has been appointed head of food and beverage at the Naveh Hotel, hotel in the Jerusalem hills. He was previously a training manager at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv, food and beverage manager at the Dan, Accadia, and acting sales and events manager at Kfar Hamaachan.

From the outside, looking in

The trading activities of company insiders can shed light on future stock prices — but don't forget to examine all the possible motives behind their maneuvers

By NEIL COHEN

A couple of years ago a friend of mine owned a small amount of stock in a privately held start-up company. The company had interesting technology, but my friend wasn't overly confident in its business prospects.

One of the main financiers backing the company approached my friend, an almost completely passive shareholder, with an unsolicited offer to buy some of his stock at a price that represented a very substantial profit for my friend. My friend felt there had to be a catch but decided, with his eyes wide open, to take the money (he didn't sell all his stock).

Some months later, the company, whose prospects were still unclear, managed to complete an initial public offering at a price substantially higher than the price he had paid my friend (who made yet more profit on his remaining shares).

Conversely, there have been plenty of instances where insiders from high-priced Israeli companies sell large amounts of stock, and significant downturns in business occur, with consequent sharp falls in share price. Good examples include Sapiens (before its recent turnaround) and Netmango.

There is nothing wrong with insiders selling stock; they must simply share price-sensitive information with the rest of the market.

The moral of these stories is that insiders generally know better than anyone what is going on at their company, and therefore are in the best position to predict the direction of the stock price. Hence it can pay to watch what company insiders are doing — buying or selling their own stock — looking at their possible motives, and then acting accordingly.

This isn't, I would hasten to add, a science. For example, some of the founders and early shareholders of Checkpoint Software sold substantial amounts of stock after the company went public, as did Efi Araz after his company, Efi, went public. The share prices of both companies continued to climb steeply (and have not really fallen back) since they sold.

Similarly, a small electronics company in which I owned stock until recently, saw its share price almost halve from the time I bought it, from somewhere in the NIS 3 range to a little over NIS 1.50. The stock seemed very cheap. It was trading at about half the company's net assets, which comprised cash and a nice building. The flipside was that some less than judicious investments and poor performance in the company's main business had led to several quarters of losses.

I checked the company insider filings on a regular basis. The two partners in the business each owned approximately 33 percent of the company, and the only evidence of activity that I found was that one of them had bought

PERSONAL FINANCE



10,000 shares at a cost of about \$7,000. Hardly a stunning vote of confidence in the future or an indication that things were looking up. Yet the following quarter, the company reported a very sharp increase in revenues, a significant turnaround from losses to a healthy level of profitability and a solid improvement in the order book.

To preempt the obvious question, there are quiet periods when company insiders are privy to information that regulatory authorities deem price-sensitive. In reality, of course, they always know more than the outside, and this is why the authorities in various countries apply this rule differently. In some, the window when insiders can deal is only a few weeks per quarter; in others it's much wider.

These guys had plenty of open periods when they could have bought stock. In the run up to and following the good news, the share price tripled, having already doubled previously in the general market recovery. I'm not blaming them for the fact that I sold only at a 50% profit instead of 300%, just pointing out the fact that insider filings, or their absence, is a far from perfect guide to what's going on in a company.

This said, if a company insider is filling his boots with stock, you have to ask yourself why. The reason is usually, though not always, that the stock is real cheap and will not stay that way forever. The insider knows that business is good or getting better, and that this isn't being appreciated by the market. For example, during the sustained downturn of 1994-95, Eliezer Fishman bought huge quantities of cheap stock in his two main listed companies, the Jerusalem Economic Corporation and Industrial Buildings Ltd. Their share prices had been battered beyond economic reason, business was good and Fishman took advantage of the market's folly. There are many other examples of the same phenomenon on the TASE over the last couple of years. Fishman stands out because he really put very large sums to work.

One thing to be careful of when following insiders is the possibility that they are motivated more by control than by price. As I have written many times, controlling shareholders often take advantage of their position by granting themselves covert dividends — i.e. dividends in which other shareholders do not enjoy — by way of cheap options, bonuses and salaries to themselves and their family. The potential size of these covert dividends makes it worthwhile for a controlling shareholder to buy more shares, almost regardless of the price, to maintain or strengthen this control. This is not the time

to follow the insider's lead. Similarly, companies are often caught in battles for control in which the combatant parties are willing to pay prices for shares that are unjustified on a fundamental basis, in order to secure control.

Consider the recent battles for beverage company Tempo and jewelry manufacturer Paz-Chen. In both cases the companies share prices soared as two shareholder groups bid the market almost any price for the vital last few shares required to secure victory and control. In both cases the share price fell back sharply after the victor had been declared and the two sides' appetite for stock had been sated.

Indeed, it is often the case in such situations that the loser wants to get rid of his large minority holding, and this creates downward pressure on the stock. On the TASE it is also near impossible to buy shares once the action has started in earnest. If you sniff the battle ahead of time and jump in early, you can do very nicely. Time it wrong, and you can get burned.

So, watch for insider buying and selling (and even its absence), try to find out what has motivated the sale or purchase (how much of his holding is the insider selling, are they borrowing money to buy?) and try to assess carefully how, if at all, the company's prospects have changed. All this may provide key clues to a potential major upturn or downturn in the company's share price.

ACX to acquire UK's Britton for \$334m.

ACX Technologies Inc., a US maker of industrial products, agreed yesterday to acquire Britton Group Plc, a UK paper and packaging company, for \$198 million (\$334m).

ACX is offering 140 pence in cash per ordinary Britton share, a 43.6 percent premium over the UK company's closing share price of 97.5 pence Monday. ACX is also offering 100 pence, or a 29% premium, for each Britton convertible share.

Britton last month rejected a £167 million offer from US paperboard company Carusar Industries Inc., calling it "absurdly low." ACX's bid is 18.6% higher.

"The board of Britton is aware that the packaging sector in general has not rewarded UK investors

well over the past year," said Britton Chief Executive Robin Williams. "The board has taken the view that it should recommend these offers from ACX in order that shareholders should have the opportunity to realize the investments at a price that fairly reflects the underlying value of the business."

Packaging and paper companies are under pressure to consolidate to cut costs and boost market share. In the six months to June 30, Britton posted a pretax profit of £7.9 m. on sales of £109.5m. Earnings per ordinary share were 4.2 pence.

Golden, Colorado-based ACX makes ceramics, packaging products, solar electric systems and other industrial products. (Bloomberg Business News)

Netscape to pay \$179.6m. in stock for Kiva Software

Netscape Communications Corp. said it will buy closely held Kiva Software Corp. for \$179.6 million in stock to broaden its reach in linking together internal and external networks for its customers.

Netscape will issue about 6.3 million shares of Netscape stock to buy 2-year-old Kiva, which has more than 100 employees and is based in Mountain View, California. Netscape said it will fold Kiva into its server products division headed by John Paul.

Netscape, which is going up against No. 1 personal computer software company Microsoft Corp. in selling software to run Web sites, said the market for so-called application servers that work in concert with Web servers will be \$400 million by 2000. More and more com-

panies are doing business on the Web, and Netscape seeks to be a leader in providing software that links Web-based programs with a customer's existing systems.

"What we'll do is add their product to ours, integrating their development team intact," said Netscape's Paul.

The acquisition will shave about two pennies from earnings per share in the current quarter, Peter Currie, Netscape's chief financial officer, said in the conference call. The purchase should start to add modestly to earnings in the latter half of next year, he said.

Netscape said it plans to close the transaction in the fourth quarter and account for the purchase as a pooling of interests. Shares of California-based Netscape fell 14 1/2 to 28 1/2. (Bloomberg Business News)

MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	1997 yield (%)	NIS assets (millions)
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FLEXIBLE

Adi	222.46	218.91	0.89	25.80	18.7
Adi Flexible	101.82	99.46	0.89	25.80	18.7
Adi Fund	213.51	210.56	1.10	24.50	29.4
Adi Fund II	553.73	465.10	1.28	24.50	74.0
Adi Fund III	71.25	71.08	1.28	24.50	74.0
Adi Fund IV	96.18	94.24	1.67	24.00	0.3
Adi Fund V	129.70	129.70	0.45	24.75	0.0
Adi Fund VI	207.96	203.36	1.45	24.50	26.8
Adi Fund VII	249.24	249.24	0.61	24.75	0.0
Adi Fund VIII	176.71	176.71	0.41	24.75	11.7
Adi Fund IX	311.69	309.57	0.11	22.88	81.2
Adi Fund X	192.77	179.78	0.58	25.13	52.7
Adi Fund XI	362.54	360.42	0.48	25.41	35.3
Adi Fund XII	133.59	133.10	1.98	26.30	10.4
Adi Fund XIII	122.08	121.98	1.31	30.65	11.8
Adi Fund XIV	295.53	293.42	0.98	22.56	8.4
Adi Fund XV	104.84	104.38	1.12	24.75	0.0
Adi Fund XVI	156.42	156.42	0.89	24.75	0.0
Adi Fund XVII	126.07	127.94	0.54	14.71	65.6
Adi Fund XVIII	151.26	151.26	0.82	27.71	0.0
Adi Fund XIX	320.71	319.49	0.45	25.34	82.2
Adi Fund XX	249.56	249.56	0.38	33.19	31.2
Adi Fund XXI	121.14	121.14	1.53	36.18	12.4
Adi Fund XXII	120.74	119.56	0.23	—	7.7
Adi Fund XXIII	114.20	114.20	0.26	24.21	5.1
Adi Fund XXIV	157.82	157.82	0.77	25.06	77.5
Adi Fund XXV	143.57	143.57	1.57	24.15	6.8
Adi Fund XXVI	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7
Adi Fund XXVII	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7
Adi Fund XXVIII	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7
Adi Fund XXIX	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7
Adi Fund XXX	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7
Adi Fund XXXI	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7
Adi Fund XXXII	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7
Adi Fund XXXIII	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7
Adi Fund XXXIV	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7
Adi Fund XXXV	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7
Adi Fund XXXVI	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7
Adi Fund XXXVII	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7
Adi Fund XXXVIII	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7
Adi Fund XXXIX	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7
Adi Fund XL	143.57	143.57	3.70	33.78	9.7

SHARES

Adi	117.96	115.87	3.14	23.80	80.1
Adi Fund	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund II	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund III	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund IV	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund V	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund VI	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund VII	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund VIII	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund IX	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund X	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XI	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XII	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XIII	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XIV	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XV	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XVI	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XVII	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XVIII	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XIX	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XX	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXI	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXII	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXIII	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXIV	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXV	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXVI	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXVII	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXVIII	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXIX	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXX	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXXI	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXXII	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXXIII	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXXIV	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXXV	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXXVI	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXXVII	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXXVIII	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XXXIX	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4
Adi Fund XL	284.58	280.78	1.63	37.42	25.4

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	1997 yield (%)	NIS assets (millions)
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Adi	99.84	99.84	1.22	32.87	13.2
Adi Fund	131.17	129.44	0.78	32.87	22.0
Adi Fund II	332.56	328.52	1.77	29.78	181.2
Adi Fund III	303.99	291.20	2.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund IV	154.87	154.87	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund V	101.22	101.22	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund VI	243.93	241.26	2.57	28.67	11.0
Adi Fund VII	303.99	291.20	2.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund VIII	154.87	154.87	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund IX	101.22	101.22	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund X	243.93	241.26	2.57	28.67	11.0
Adi Fund XI	303.99	291.20	2.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XII	154.87	154.87	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XIII	101.22	101.22	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XIV	243.93	241.26	2.57	28.67	11.0
Adi Fund XV	303.99	291.20	2.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XVI	154.87	154.87	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XVII	101.22	101.22	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XVIII	243.93	241.26	2.57	28.67	11.0
Adi Fund XIX	303.99	291.20	2.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XX	154.87	154.87	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XXI	101.22	101.22	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XXII	243.93	241.26	2.57	28.67	11.0
Adi Fund XXIII	303.99	291.20	2.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XXIV	154.87	154.87	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XXV	101.22	101.22	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XXVI	243.93	241.26	2.57	28.67	11.0
Adi Fund XXVII	303.99	291.20	2.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XXVIII	154.87	154.87	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XXIX	101.22	101.22	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XXX	243.93	241.26	2.57	28.67	11.0
Adi Fund XXXI	303.99	291.20	2.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XXXII	154.87	154.87	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XXXIII	101.22	101.22	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XXXIV	243.93	241.26	2.57	28.67	11.0
Adi Fund XXXV	303.99	291.20	2.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XXXVI	154.87	154.87	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XXXVII	101.22	101.22	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XXXVIII	243.93	241.26	2.57	28.67	11.0
Adi Fund XXXIX	303.99	291.20	2.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XL	154.87	154.87	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XLI	101.22	101.22	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XLII	243.93	241.26	2.57	28.67	11.0
Adi Fund XLIII	303.99	291.20	2.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XLIV	154.87	154.87	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XLV	101.22	101.22	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XLVI	243.93	241.26	2.57	28.67	11.0
Adi Fund XLVII	303.99	291.20	2.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XLVIII	154.87	154.87	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund XLIX	101.22	101.22	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund L	243.93	241.26	2.57	28.67	11.0
Adi Fund LI	303.99	291.20	2.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund LII	154.87	154.87	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund LIII	101.22	101.22	0.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund LIV	243.93	241.26	2.57	28.67	11.0
Adi Fund LV	303.99	291.20	2.54	28.67	3.4
Adi Fund LVI	154.87	154.87	0.54	28.67	3.4
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Law tips Scholes for England World Cup spot

LONDON (Reuters) - Former Manchester United great Dennis Law has tipped Paul Scholes to be a key figure in the England's World Cup side next year.

As competition for places in coach Glenn Hoddle's final squad for France increases, Law has predicted Scholes, who plays for United in the European Champions' League against FC Kosice of Slovakia tomorrow, will edge out team mate Teddy Sheringham for the second striker's spot.

Scholes is often compared to Law, dubbed the "King of Old Trafford" in the 1960s.

Newcastle's Alan Shearer is expected to be fit to spearhead the England attack in the finals which means there will be only one other vacant place up front.

"At the moment it has to be Scholes," Law said yesterday.

Friedstein elected ITC chairman

Kolite Friedstein is the newly elected chairman of the local board of the Israel Tennis Center. Friedstein, who will fill the position for two years, replaces Lanny Herzikowicz who served for five years and will remain a member of the board.

Friedstein, one of the founders of Kibbutz Shoval in the Negev, was chairman of the Israel Tennis Association in the early 'nineties and prior to that was managing director of the ITC.

Seymour Brode from the United States heads the ITC's international board.

National basketball squad set for fresh start vs. Belarus

By ARYEN DEAN COHEN

Israeli basketball's "Katzurim Era" begins tonight for the national team as new coach Muli Katzurim leads his charges out to face Belarus at Yad Elihu in the first of the qualifying round games for the European Championships, set for France in 1999.

Israel finished ninth in the last championships, held in Spain last summer, and beat Belarus twice along the way in the preliminaries. Belarus failed to qualify.

This time around, Israel has been drawn in qualifying group C along with Belarus, Denmark, Britain, Spain and Ukraine. Given that the top three teams in each of the five brackets advance to France following the 10-game schedule, Israel, Spain and Ukraine should have decent shots at qualifying.

Whether Israel does so is now largely up to Katzurim, who has taken over from Zvi Sherf. Katzurim's appointment raised some eyebrows among those who thought the job should have gone to current Hapoel Jerusalem coach Efi Birnbaum, but the nod went to the former Maccabi Tel

Aviv and Bnei Herzliya coach, who is assisted by Hapoel Galil Elyon's David Blatt.

The Israeli squad should benefit from a strong backcourt, with Maccabi's Oded Katash and Doron Sheffer leading the way. Katash is nursing an Achilles heel injury, but physiotherapists were working on readying him for the game. The pair's additional EuroLeague experience should stand them in good stead in national team play.

Meanwhile, Maccabi's Guy Goodes - currently on loan to Italian second division team Caserta while he recovers from a knee injury - arrived yesterday to join his teammates. Add to that list the deadly Amir Katz of Hapoel Eilat, and you have a dangerous backcourt with plenty of scoring punch.

Swingman Lior Ardit is the defensive specialist and will be out to stop Belarus's running game and vaunted three-point shooters. Israel will luck out tonight as several Belarus players who are members of US college teams will not be available.

Now that Sherf is gone, center Tomer Steinhauer, who didn't always get along with him,

SPORTS

in brief

Swimmer Halika wins gold

Mickey Halika won gold and silver medals at the Nations Cup competition in Vienna, Austria. Halika won the 400 meters individual medley in 4:27.8 and placed second in the 200m butterfly in 2:05:50. Yoav Bruck took silver in the 50m freestyle for his time of 23.56 seconds. He was third in the 100m freestyle in 51.73 second.

Meshi, Hacham win in Caesarea

This week's two-persons scramble 'Visa' competition was won by Zvika Meshi and Kobi Hacham with a 14-under-par 59. Mike Ossip and Hanan Eshed had a nine under 64 for second place and at 65 and third place were Sami Haliyo and Barry Zimmerman.

One hundred players entered the competition.

After 16 rounds of the Coca-Cola league, Kfir Shmaryahu has 67 an unassailable lead with 67 points ahead of Herzliya (36) and Jerusalem (30).

Squash champ beaten

National and Maccabi champion Ronen Goldberg lost in the final of the Herzliya Squash Center's 15th championships to Sa'ar Justman. In third place was Warren Berman. Gal Lav-Ran beat Tsemach Meir in the over-35 age group with Peter Gaunt overcoming Trevor Segal in the over-45 category.

Reuven Metrani won the over-50's group, beating Norman Gluckman. The tournament, in memory of Ronnie McCloud, was organized by Peter Gaunt and Brenda Leberman.

Heather Chait

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Not so merry across the Mersey

In 1990, a familiar scene was enacted at Anfield come the end of the season.

Alan Hansen, the Liverpool skipper, hoisted aloft the famous old English Championship soccer trophy.

It was the eleventh time in 13 seasons that the trophy had been lifted by a Liverpool skipper. In the 1980s, they were the ones to pick up the title.

Fast forward to this year, however, and all is not well in the passionate footballing metropolis that is Liverpool.

The 1990s have, thus far, been a disaster for the two Merseyside giants and, despite the great optimism with which they both set off for this current campaign, results have been a giant letdown.

Saturday's matches exemplified their season. Liverpool faced Barnsley at home, the Yorkshire side having been thumped on each of their last three away outings. A home banker you might say, probably much as the Anfield faithful did as they took their seats. Wrong.

Barnsley soaked a goal and a Liverpool side short of ideas, inspiration and finishing prowess rolled over and let the game slip away from them.

Time was when the Anfield crowd was almost worth a goal start and to play at Liverpool was the ultimate test of a visiting side's nerve. Now a visit to Leeds can be judged more daunting.

Manager Roy Evans acknowledged the crowd's right to boo his side from the field on Saturday. But amid those boos will have been plenty of murmurs along the lines of "Evans out."

Looking back at pictures of the likes of Bob Paisley, Joe Fagan or Kenny Dalglish celebrating one of those aforementioned championships, one could often see a youthful Evans—a long-time member of the legendary Anfield front row—sharing in those triumphs.

Evans, a likeable man whose commitment to the Liverpool cause can't be questioned, admitted that if he hadn't been offered the top job when Graeme Souness quit Liverpool in January 1994 then he might have sought a fresh challenge elsewhere.

Since taking over, he has spent millions and remodeled a Liverpool side with all the true traditional virtues. Yet somehow a side which contains such talents as Ince, Fowler, McManaman and Redknapp fails to deliver the goods.

The team has been dubbed the Spice Boys—a reference to their so-called off-field activities taking priority over football matters. Yet this season, following the signing of Ince from Inter Milan, was meant to be the one when boys matured into men.

Net result so far? Eighth place, having lost four games already. The spotlight is now turning onto Evans. He apparently has "a job for life" with Liverpool, but time is running out if that particular brand of employment is not to carry some awkward

honorary title while the real work of managing the team is carried out by someone else.

Everson's woes

If eighth place spells trouble for Liverpool then Everson are in the disaster zone. Dumped into bottom spot in the Premiership following their defeat at Aston Villa, they are now facing yet another relegation dogfight to compare with the very worst of recent years.

Again the man at the helm can be seen sharing those previous triumphs of the 1980s. The only difference is that Howard Kendall actually managed Everson's championship-winning sides, but this, his second return to Goodison, is proving possibly a step too far.

Already on shaky ground after it became clear that his summer appointment was only made when the first two or three choices were not interested, Kendall has seen his well paid stars roll over and die too many times for comfort.

Everson always seem too big to go down, but the uncomfortable reality is that having toyed with the idea for so long, they are now serious contenders for the dreaded drop.

Troubled off the field, trounced on it, Everson have the same sort of look as Manchester United circa 1973/74—a bloated, chaotic club which needs a spell outside of the elite in order to regroup and no longer take things for granted.

The only problem for Eversonians however, is that given the big bucks now being spent by other First Division clubs, there is no guarantee of a return to the Premiership should they fall from grace.

So the city of Liverpool, finds itself looking for answers and not seeing them coming. Perhaps we should all enjoy the Merseyside derby of February 21 next year—it could be the last we see for some time.

Captain Courageous

Despite their concern at the previous day's 2-5 defeat to the All Blacks, the England rugby management must have breathed a sigh of relief on Sunday morning.

One, their side had put up a gallant performance against a side many consider to be the best out of the southern islands for many a long year, and two, they had narrowly escaped having to ban their captain.

Martin Johnson, the triumphant Lions captain and a lock forward for England, was on the receiving end of a seven-day ban for his obvious punch on Kiwi captain Justin Marshall. And rightly so.

But had coach Clive Woodward listened to the media calls at the start of the season for Johnson to take his successful stewardship of the Lions side onto the field of play for England, the management could have faced a tricky problem.

Having plumped for Lawrence Dallaglio, superb in attack and defense on Saturday, the selectors were proved right.

Johnson may have had a brilliant series against the Springboks but those occasional flashes of temper mean his choice as skipper of England was never the foregone conclusion many had felt it would be.

Hornacek Jazzes it up in OT win

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Utah Jazz were headed for an embarrassing collapse, watching a 27-point lead evaporate against the Minnesota Timberwolves.

But Jeff Hornacek hit a key jumper to help send the game to overtime, then scored seven of his season-high 25 points in the extra period as Utah defeated the Timberwolves 133-124 Monday night.

"He came up big, made a big shot (near the end of regulation) and made a lot of big shots in the overtime," said Jazz coach Jerry Sloan, who watched his team blow a 21-point lead in the fourth quarter. "He kept us alive. Otherwise, we were really struggling. He had a great finish."

Karl Malone scored 33 points, also a season-best, and Adam Keefe had a season-high 17 points for the Jazz, who outscored the Timberwolves 19-10 in overtime.

Marbury, who scored nine points in the first half, finished with a career-high 38, including four 3-pointers. He led Minnesota's dramatic comeback from a 96-75 deficit at the start of the fourth quarter to tie the game at 112 with 1:03 left in regulation. His steal with six seconds to play in regulation sent the game into overtime.

Magic 95, Wizards 87

Rony Seikaly scored 24 points and grabbed 13 rebounds host Orlando grabbed its sixth consecutive victory.

Playing with Penny Hardaway for the first time during the winning streak, the Magic pulled away in the final four minutes as Derek Strong scored six of his 15 points down the stretch.

The Wizards, who have lost six straight, got 29 points and 15 rebounds from Chris Webber, who scored 10 of Washington's last 15 points. Juwan Howard scored 20, but just two of them came in the fourth quarter.

Hardaway, who missed Orlando's previous five games because of tendinitis in his left knee, finished with 15 points on 5-for-14 shooting.

Trail Blazers 91, Raptors 90

Rashad Wallace tipped in Kenny Anderson's miss at the buzzer as visiting Portland handed the Raptors their 10th straight loss.

After Popeye Jones hit a jumper to put the Raptors up 90-87 with 39 seconds left, Brian Grant scored on a follow shot to make it 90-89.

Reggie Slater and Jones had a chance to restore Toronto's three-point lead, but neither could score from in close. After Anderson brought the ball up court and missed a shot with time running out, Wallace positioned himself perfectly and tapped in the rebound just as the buzzer sounded.



EMBRACEABLE YOU — Timberwolves Cherokee Parks (l) is fouled by Utah's Antoine Carr (r) in first-quarter action. The Jazz won 133-124 in OT.

Olajuwon, O'Neal sidelined

HOUSTON (AP) — Hakeem Olajuwon, the Houston Rockets' All-Star center, underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left knee Monday night and could be sidelined for some two months, team doctors said.

Olajuwon, 34, has been slowed so far this season and complained about his knee following Saturday's game against Golden State. Team doctors considered surgery or rest and rehabilitation for the injury caused by wear and tear.

"It's definitely time to get this thing fixed," his physicians said. Olajuwon had complained of trouble with his left knee early in the season. Although he has averaged 24 points on 52 percent shooting in his career, this season he's averaging only 14.8 points with 48 percent shooting.

Olajuwon has had only one serious injury in his 14 years in the NBA, which includes championships in 1994 and '95. In 1991, he was elbowed in the eye and missed 25 games.

He hasn't missed more than 14 games in any other season, although he's had a blood clot in his left leg and an irregular heartbeat. In the past five seasons, he's missed only 26 games.

In other news, Shaquille O'Neal will be sidelined at least 10 more days, but the Lakers' center will not need surgery on his injured abdomen.

O'Neal has been hampered by the abdominal strain on and off since the start of training camp. He re-aggravated the injury in a game against Minnesota last Wednesday.

The latest announcement means that O'Neal will miss at least five more games, but there still are no plans as yet to place on the injured list.

O'Neal, 25, is in the second year of a six-year contract worth more than \$120 million.

Pippen: I want out! Coach: He's kidding

SEATTLE (AP) — Chicago Bulls coach Phil Jackson isn't taking Scottie Pippen's trade demands too seriously. Michael Jordan isn't so sure. Pippen himself isn't talking — for now.

"I think he's just joking the press, personally, and throwing a barb out there," Jackson said Monday after a workout for the Bulls' game tonight against the Seattle SuperSonics.

Jordan, like Pippen, becomes a free agent at the end of the season. "We know that he's not happy with his contract," Jordan said. "He didn't have to go public, but he did. I'm not shellshocked by anything that happens. This organization is at a crossroads."

Pippen, who hasn't played this season because of a foot injury, told the *Daily Herald* of Arlington Heights, Illinois, he wants to leave the team. "I ain't coming back," Pippen told the newspaper Sunday at halftime of the Bulls' game at Sacramento. "I want to be traded. I want to go to Phoenix or LA."

Pippen averaged nearly 20 points last season, led the Bulls in assists and was their No. 2 rebounder, but has been relatively underpaid, making less than \$3 million this season under a contract extension he signed in 1991.

"I'm not surprised he wants to be traded," said Ron Harper, Pippen's best friend on the team. "He feels they are not loyal to him and he has been loyal to them. He has played hurt, he has won five championships. He feels they should come out and do something for him."

During 10 years with Chicago, Pippen has often feuded with general manager Jerry Krause over trade rumors and his contract. "You never close doors," Krause told the *Chicago Tribune*. "However, we spent a tremendous amount of money to bring this team back intact. It would take a knockout deal for us to trade any key guy on our team."

Pippen told the *Daily Herald* the last straw came in September when he considered playing in his own charity game at the United Center despite his painful foot, which was operated on in October.

Pippen said Krause told him in a letter before the game not to play. "He said he would fine me. Can you believe it?" Pippen said.

Broncos trample Raiders

DENVER (AP) — For four straight games, the Denver Broncos' offense fizzled in the red zone, scoring only five touchdowns in a series of puncheon performances that belied its standing as the No. 1 offense in the NFL.

All it took to snap out of it was the sight of the dreaded pirate and his eyepatch on the side of an Oakland Raiders helmet.

John Elway, Shannon Sharpe and Terrell Davis led the way as the Broncos scored four touchdowns, crushing the Raiders 31-3 on Monday night.

"I hate that damn patch," Broncos safety Tyrone Braxton said during preparations for the battle with Denver's bitterest rival.

"When you have orange blood flowing through your veins, it becomes a hatred like the Hatfields and McCoys." For a week, the Broncos were energized by the thought of the rivalry and of a 28-25 loss in Oakland five weeks earlier. It not only was the Broncos' first setback after six wins, but it also proved humiliating when the Raiders made mock salutes to taunt the Broncos, whose running backs made saluting a sign



Broncos' Terrell Davis (AP)

of celebration this season. Denver players did the only saluting Monday night. Elway completed 21 of 32 passes

es for 280 yards and a touchdown, and Sharpe had 10 receptions for 142 yards. Davis scored three touchdowns and ran for 69 yards — regaining the NFL rushing lead that Detroit's Barry Sanders wrested from him on Sunday (1,469-1,427).

"Our goal coming in here was not just to beat them, but to beat them badly," said Denver line-backer Bill Romanowski, a leader of the unit that held the Raiders to 260 yards. "Everybody had the state of mind that this was going to be a war and we were going to bury them."

Denver (10-2) maintained its one-game lead over Kansas City in the AFC West, while the Raiders (4-8) appeared headed for their fourth straight non-playoff season.

Napoleon Kaufman, who ripped the Broncos for a team-record 227 yards rushing in the first meeting, was held to 53 yards on 13 carries. The NFL's No. 2 passing attack also fizzled as Jeff George completed 22 of 41 passes for 185 yards, and was sacked four times.

The Broncos, extending their regular-season winning streak at home to 15 games, put the game away with scores on their first three series of the third quarter.

Atherton wants to lead England one-day team

LONDON (Reuters) — Mike Atherton said yesterday he would like to captain England again in one-day internationals but would not comment on his prospects of taking charge when his country hosts the 1999 World Cup.

Atherton was not included in the England squad for the Sharjah Cup next month, which will be led by Surrey all-rounder Adam Hoolioke. Several commentators have suggested he will not captain England again in the one-day arena.

Hoolioke is also in the full England team which Atherton will take to the West Indies next January.

Asked at a news conference at the Oval if his one-day career had ended, Atherton replied: "I accept that I'm not in the one-day squad for Sharjah."

But he then said he wanted to return to the one-day team and pointed out that he had scored a century while leading England to a 3-0 victory over Australia in the limited overs series this year.

"I'm able to play one-day cricket," Atherton said.

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Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Gross lays down the law at Spurs

LONDON (Reuters) - Tottenham Hotspur's new Swiss manager Christian Gross revealed his strict regime to the players on his first day in charge at the English premier league club yesterday.

Gross ordered them to a light training session the morning after their 1-0 home league defeat by Crystal Palace.

He then told them changes will include Fridays away from their families - even before home matches - and Sunday training.

"It's a sensible practice and some of the changes I will make," he said.

Gross, who spoke to all the players individually, won the backing of Spurs captain Sol Campbell.

The England defender said: "I think the new manager is going to be good for the club, bringing in his tactics and ideas."

"He's a firm man and fair with it. He seems to emphasize teamwork and we need that. We have to take the new training methods on board."

"Our league position (17th out of 20) speaks for itself. We've got to see the warning signs now."

Gross was also keen to emphasize the work ethic. He said: "What I saw against Crystal Palace was a number of players who were not at all match fit. My first job here is to convince them of my methods and ideas."

"The players seem very receptive. They want to improve. Together we must be strong."

Gross, who pleaded with the Tottenham fans to be patient, takes his new side to Goodison Park on Saturday to face Everton in a bottom-of-the-table clash.

"Everyone must work hard for each other. But we have to be realistic. We cannot change much in five days before the game at Everton. We cannot expect an extraordinary performance."

Swedes face loss of Kulti ahead of Davis Cup final

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (Reuters) - Doubles player Nicklas Kulti is struggling with a chronic back injury and is doubtful for Sweden's Davis Cup final against the US this weekend.

Kulti was training with his Swedish team-mates yesterday after undergoing treatment in Linköping, 200 kms southwest of Stockholm.

"It's too early to tell if he can play," Swedish physiotherapist Per Bastholt said.

The loss of Kulti, ninth in the ATP Tour doubles rankings with Jonas Björkman, would further reduce Sweden's chances against the Americans.

The only person downplaying the US chances ahead of the three-day final beginning Friday in this southern Swedish city was team captain Tom Gullikson.

"I really think that we're the underdogs," Gullikson said.

"You have the home-crowd advantage here and you have all the Swedes who play good tennis."

Jonathan Stark, winner of the ATP Tour world doubles title with Rick Leach on Sunday in Hartford, Connecticut, has arrived in Gothenburg to replace the injured Alex O'Brien.

Gullikson is still shuffling his doubles combinations to come up with a winning duo.

In the first three rounds of the Davis Cup, the US have used three different pairings. All have lost.

Pete Sampras and Todd Martin are one possible combination for the final while Martin and Stark are another, said Gullikson, who said he would likely wait until Friday's singles to decide.

"A lot depends on what the score is and how Pete feels," said Gullikson.



Karlruhe's Christian Wueck (right) is challenged by Valery Ketchinov of Spartak Moscow during their UEFA Cup third round first-leg match in Germany last night. The match ended goalless. (AP)

Ciocoiu inspires Steaua to 2-1 UEFA Cup win over Villa

BUCHAREST (Reuters) - Striker Cristian Ciocoiu inspired Steaua Bucharest to a 2-1 victory over Aston Villa in the first leg of their UEFA Cup third round tie last night.

Ciocoiu volleyed a cross over the Villa defence against the post and the ball ricocheted back off goalkeeper Michael Oakes into the net in the 30th minute.

Two minutes later Ciocoiu met a cross from the right with an overhead kick on the penalty spot for a superb goal.

Villa looked a ragged side early in the second half and Catalin Munteanu almost made it 3-0 by hammering a volley against the underside of the bar.

But in the 54th minute Villa striker Dwight Yorke rose unchallenged in the penalty box to head home a Savo Milosevic cross from seven meters.

Ajax 4, Bochum 2

In Amsterdam, Ajax Amsterdam came back from 2-0 down to rock Vfl Bochum with four goals in 11 minutes.

Ajax won 4-2, all six goals coming in a thrilling 25 minutes before half-time.

Bochum, bottom of the German first division, appeared set for a stunning upset when they scored through Thomas Reis and Sergei Juran in the 20th and 24th minutes respectively.

But the Dutch league leaders woke from their slumber to stun their opponents with three goals in four minutes.

Michael Laudrup scored the first two in the 34th and 36th minutes and then Sten Arveladze gave Ajax the lead. Frank de Boer ended a frantic first half with Ajax's fourth goal on the stroke of half-time.

Karlruhe 0, Spartak Moscow 0

Two brilliant saves by goalkeeper Alexander Filimonov helped Spartak Moscow to a goalless draw at German side Karlruhe SC.

Karlruhe, who were crushed 3-0 by VfB Stuttgart on Saturday to drop one place to 16th in the 18-strong Bundesliga, came close to scoring in the ninth minute when defender Bernhard Reich hit the post.

The home side wasted another opportunity in the 65th minute when Filimonov blocked a volley from South African-born striker Sean Dundee, who had only just come on.

Reich, beautifully set up by international playmaker Thomas Haessler, tried his luck again from just inside the penalty area in the 76th minute but the Spartak 'keeper dived to deprive him of a goal.

With just three minutes remaining, Dundee failed to exploit a blunder in the visitors' defence. He found himself alone in front of Filimonov but his shot went just wide.

FC Twente 0, Auxerre 1

In the Netherlands, Auxerre striker Bernard Dionede's breakaway goal gave the French a 1-0 win over Dutch side FC Twente.

Dionede chased a through ball down the left during a lightning Auxerre counter attack on 70 minutes and tucked the ball past advancing Twente keeper Sander Boschker.

And Boschker denied a clean-through Dionede a second ten minutes later with the motionless Twente defense appealing for off-side.

Twente's Andre Kamebeek had a header cleared off the line in injury time.

But the game took a long while to get going.

Cyril Jeunechamp was booked after 22 minutes for a tackle from behind on Rico Steinmann, who was one of the better Twente players in a cautious and lackluster first half hour.

The first attempt on goal was a curling free kick from the left hand sideline by Auxerre striker Stephane Guivarch on 32 minutes, punched over by Boschker.

And Guivarch popped up again moments later, neatly stepping over the ball to provide a close-range shooting chance for Yann Lachuer.

Twente started the second half strongly and Steinmann burst through on the right to shoot straight at French goalie Fabien Cool from a narrow angle.

Sabri Lamouchi struck the bar for the French just before Dionede pounced.

Strasbourg 2, Inter Milan 0

French giant killers Strasbourg scored twice in the opening 19 minutes to beat Inter Milan 2-0.

Strasbourg, who beat both Glasgow Rangers and Liverpool at their Stade de La Meina in previous rounds, went ahead in the 11th minute when Inter goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca made a poor clearance from a corner straight to Gerard Baticle. He tapped the ball in from close range.

Eight minutes later Strasbourg captain Baticle backheeled a free kick square to defender Valerian Ismael and his 25-metre drive went just inside the diving Pagliuca's right-hand post.

Inter, who lost at home to Olympique Lyon in the second round before winning the tie in the away leg, appeared to have pulled back a valuable away goal when Diego Simone scored from Youri Djorkaeff's pass. But the Argentine substitute was ruled offside.

Rapid Vienna 0, Lazio 2

In Vienna, Italy's Lazio beat Rapid Vienna 2-0 in a stormy tie which saw both sides reduced to 10-men in the second half.

Rapid lost Oliver Freund in the 57th minute after the German midfielder picked up his second yellow card for handball, while Italian striker Roberto Mancini was sent off in the 63rd minute immediately after scoring Lazio's second goal.

Mancini profited from a mistake in Rapid's defence to fire home after 62 minutes, then brought down Christian Prosenik for his second yellow card.

Pierluigi Casiraghi put the Italian side in front in the 38th minute, fastening onto the ball after a shot from Mancini was parried by Rapid goalkeeper Raimund Hedl.

Croatia Zagreb 1, Atletico Madrid 1

In Zagreb, Atletico Madrid recovered from a second minute goal by Bosnian international Edin Mujcin to draw 1-1 with Croatia Zagreb.

Mujcin slotted home from 10 metres after the Spanish defence failed to clear a cross by Vladimir Petrovic.

Croatia were the better team in the first half, creating several good chances, but had finishing cost them dearly when Atletico equalized through substitute Jose Luis Caminero in the 61st minute.

Coming on for Jorfi Lardin in the second half, Caminero fired a powerful left-footer past goalkeeper Drazen Ladice.

Zagreb lost their composure and the Spanish side settled for a draw which makes them favourites to progress to the quarter-finals.

Crunch time for European hopefuls

By MIKE COLLETT

LONDON (Reuters) - If results go their way today and tomorrow, five of the eight European Cup quarter-finalists will be known this week.

Reigning champions Borussia Dortmund, Manchester United, Dynamo Kiev, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich could all secure their places in the knockout phase with a game to play in their Champions' League groups.

Even if the scores do not turn out exactly right, victory should make qualification virtually certain - and end the hopes of the others.

With the absence of European Cup Winners' Cup matches this week, UEFA have split the Champions' League program into two with six matches today and six tomorrow.

Both matches in group A will be tomorrow with Dortmund likely to be too strong at home for bottom club Galatasaray.

The Germans won 1-0 in Turkey in September and as Galatasaray are without their suspended influential midfielder Gheorghe Hagi, it is hard to see them overcoming Dortmund at home.

If Dortmund do win and Parma are beaten at home by Sparta Prague, Dortmund will finish first in the section.

Manchester United, the only team with a 100 percent record, look capable of maintaining their great start with a fifth successive victory in group B over Kosice at Old Trafford.

United crushed Kosice, 3-0 in Slovakia in September and have gained in confidence since then with a home win over Juventus and home and away wins over Feyenoord.

Kosice have lost all four games and are unlikely to break that sequence tomorrow.

But if third-placed Feyenoord, who have already been eliminated, continue the improvement they have shown under new coach Leo Beenhakker in the last two weeks, and sneak a shock home win over the Italians on Wednesday, United would be home and dry if they beat Kosice as expected.

With both Barcelona and Newcastle United playing out a group C side-show at the Nou Camp tonight, attention will be focused on the top-of-the-table clash between Dynamo Kiev and PSV Eindhoven tomorrow.

Kiev beat Eindhoven 3-1 in their opening match, and if they win at home, they take the group.

Real Madrid, favored in some quarters to win the European Cup for the first time since 1966, can also secure their place in the last eight with a win at second-placed Rosenborg Trondheim.

Real crushed the Norwegians 4-1 in Madrid in September and could have scored 10. A 1-0 win would be enough for the Spaniards tomorrow.

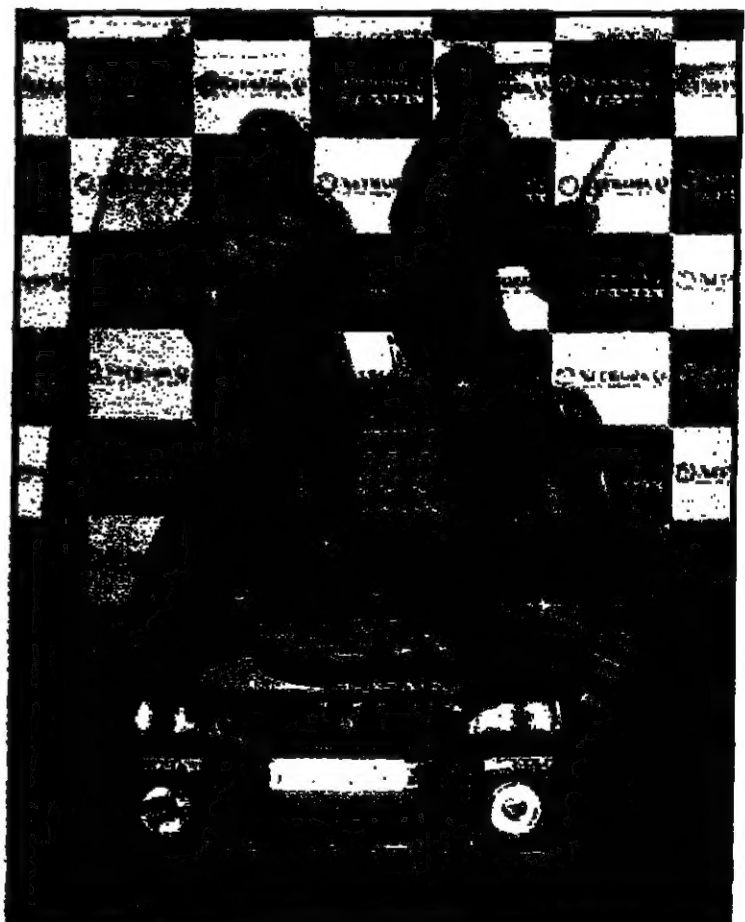
Bayern Munich will also qualify from group E if they win at Besiktas and bottom-placed IFK Gothenburg defeat Paris St Germain in Sweden.

PSG have had an erratic campaign, winning at home against IFK and Bayern and losing at Besiktas and Bayern. But they have a slight advantage over the Swedes, who enter the game with Magnus Johansson and goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli suspended.

The battle for supremacy in group F also involves French and German teams with Monaco and Bayer Leverkusen level on nine points at the top of the table and Sporting Lisbon and Lierse out of contention.

Monaco are at home to Sporting tonight and Bayern visit Lierse, but the group is unlikely to be decided before the last day of the league phase of the competition on December 10 when Monaco travel to Leverkusen.

With the best two second-placed teams joining the six group winners in the quarter-finals, the only certainty is that there is plenty more drama ahead.



Colin McRae (right) and his navigator, Nicky Grist celebrate atop their Subaru after winning the RAC Rally yesterday. (Reuters)

McRae wins RAC Rally but Makenen keeps crown

CHELTONHAM (Reuters) - Finn Tommi Makinen shrugged off a bout of flu to retain his world rally championship crown yesterday.

The Mitsubishi driver took the title again when he finished sixth overall in the British RAC Rally, which was won by Scotsman Colin McRae in a Subaru.

Makinen had caught a heavy cold in the build-up to the three-day event and his condition worsened as the rally progressed.

He admitted that if he had needed to finish higher than the necessary sixth to ensure retaining the title, he would have struggled.

"I didn't feel so well," he explained after the finish.

"Every hour I had to take some medicine to try and keep the fever down. Now, I think I will have a shower and go to sleep."

"It's an incredible feeling to have won and it was the most difficult rally for me. I had the situation where I had to just try and score one point, but then I got this flu at the beginning and my condition just got worse. I was lucky that I only needed one point, because otherwise it could have been very difficult."

Makinen is only the third driver in rally history to defend his crown successfully.

He started the event with the intention of driving conservatively, knowing sixth place would be enough to clinch the championship, and he never looked like threatening the leaders.

Title rival McRae, though, needed to win the event to stand any chance of seizing the crown and he was locked in a fight for the overall lead with fellow-Briton Richard Burns for much of the second leg and the opening two stages of yesterday's final leg.

But McRae's task was made easier when Burns was slowed with a puncture on the 21st of the 26 stages, dropping the Mitsubishi driver to fourth overall, and although McRae had no problems on his way to victory, he could not stop Makinen finishing sixth.

"At the end of the day, I have won more rallies than Tommi, but he is champion," said McRae.

"If we couldn't win the championship, it is always nice to win our home event. Obviously I am disappointed that we didn't get the championship, but it was a bit of a long shot from the start."

McRae finished two minutes 47 seconds ahead of Ford's Finnish driver Juha Kankkunen. Ford's Carlos Sainz, from Spain, finished third, ahead of Burns and Finn Marcus Gronholm in a Toyota.

France to lift most stadium fences for World Cup finals

PARIS (Reuters) - France, in line with the wishes of world soccer's governing body FIFA, will have no perimeter fencing at most of the stadiums for the 1998 World Cup finals.

"We're heading for eight out of 10 stadiums which will not have fencing, maybe nine out of 10," Michel Platini, joint chief of the CPO World Cup organizing committee, said yesterday.

Platini was confirming what Sports Minister Marie-George Buffet said were the French government's wishes at a press conference held by Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

"We do not want to sort out the problem in a global way, but rather study it case by case," she said.

She said the city of Nantes was against doing away with fencing at their La Beaujoire stadium, while St Etienne was having financial difficulties.

Buffet said the government was looking for solutions "to avoid perturbing the view of the spectators." At Lyon, Montpellier and Lens, they were seeking a horizontal solution to prevent pitch invasions.

She did not give a date for the lifting of the perimeter fencing at the venues, which also include Marseille, Toulouse, Bordeaux and the new Stade de France and Parc des Princes in Paris.

The impressive, supposedly modern Stade de France in the suburb of St Denis is near completion while the rest of the grounds are at various stages of alteration.

Marseille's Velodrome is set to hold next week's draw although work will continue there until later in the season.

Platini, also keen to see the fences go down, said: "Great progress has been made..."

"At Nantes it's no. At St Etienne, the (second division) club is in some difficulty. The rest are all for lifting the fences."

"They're going to it on condition that they find the financial resources. There's just Nantes. It's all very positive," Platini said.

FIFA have for a long time been against perimeter fencing, saying people are not animals to be put in cages.

It also believes fencing is dangerous as in the case of a crush of fans at a stadium in Guatemala last year in which 78 people died.

That tragedy was reminiscent of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster in Sheffield, England where 95 fans were crushed to death.

Jospin reported on the security measures that will be in place at the venues, taking as their chief example England's trouble-free staging of the 1996 European championship finals.

There will be systems of video-surveillance in the grounds managed by stewards. The police will be in charge outside.

Jospin said all preparations, for a total cost of 6.67 billion francs (\$1.33 billion), were on schedule and that from now the government would begin a campaign to try to involve the whole country in the event.

"To use a term from athletics rather than football, we're now going into the final 400 metres of the 5,000. The bell has sounded," Jospin said.

Lara offered captaincy of Warwickshire

LONDON (AP) - West Indies batsman Brian Lara will rejoin English county side Warwickshire next season and will be named captain, the club said yesterday.

Lara was offered the captaincy after his solicitors faxed a statement expressing his intent to accept a one-year contract.

Tim Munton will lose the captaincy after missing all of last season because of a back injury.

"Brian has international experience as a captain and we were impressed by his tactical awareness when he was here in 1994,"

chief executive Dennis Amis said.

Lara, currently touring Pakistan with the West Indies, is expected to sign the contract during a stopover in London on his way home from the Sharjah tournament next month.

Depending on his commitments

in the Caribbean domestic competition next spring, Lara could resume in county cricket on April 17 against Durham at Edgbaston.

Lara hit his world record score of 501 not out against Durham at Edgbaston during Warwickshire's triple-winning campaign in 1994.

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